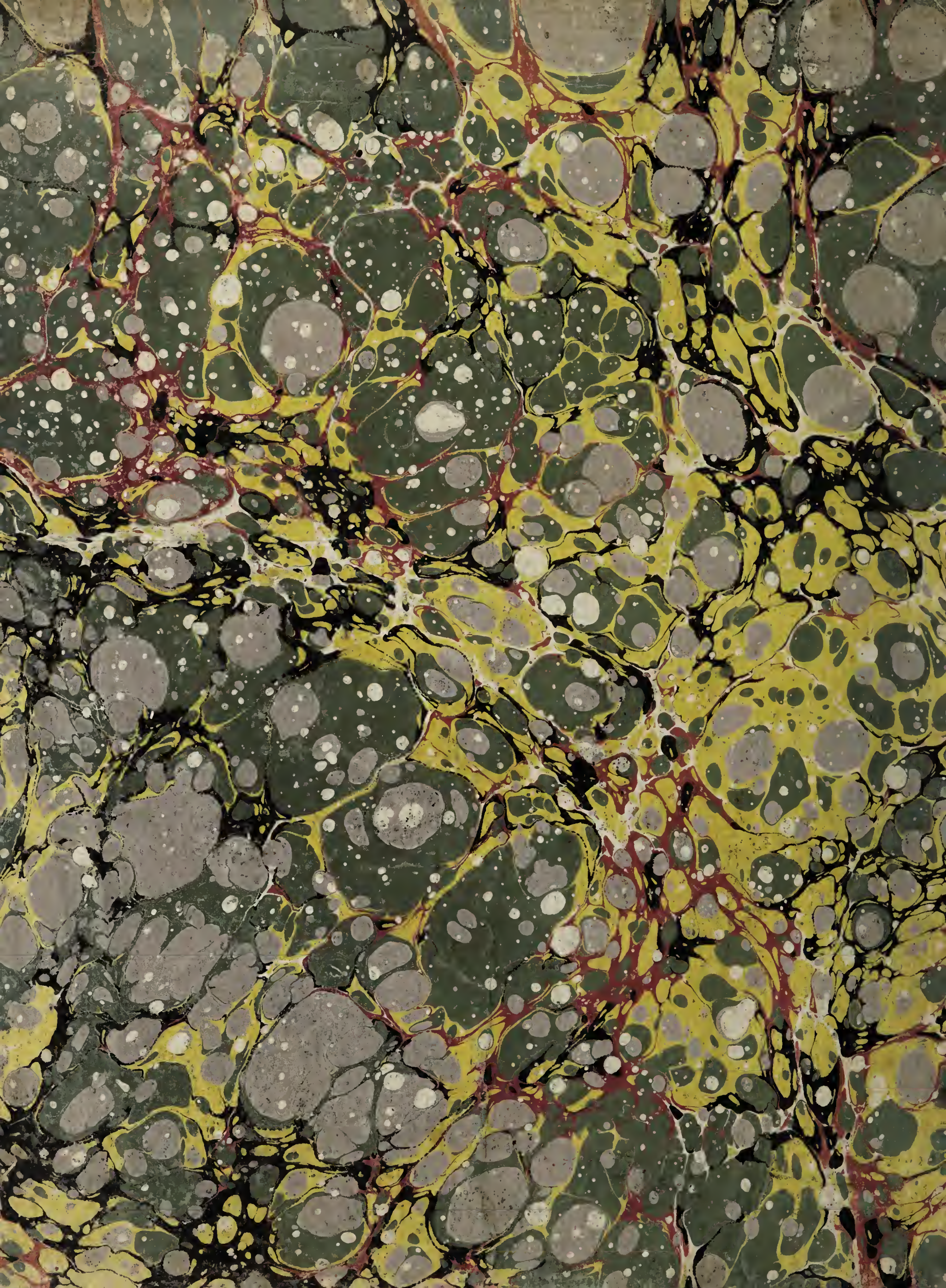
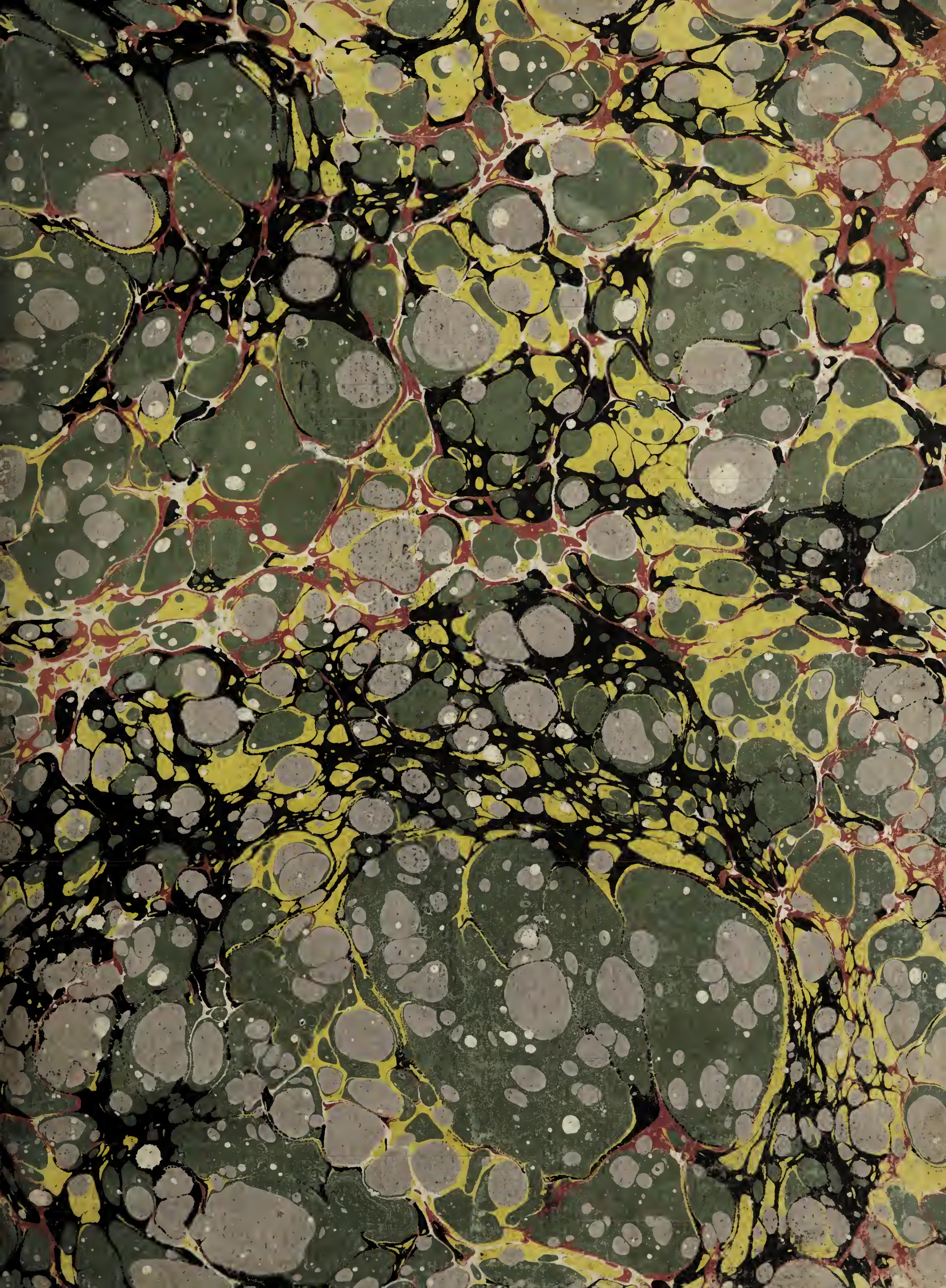






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T R A V E L S
IN THE
T W O S I C I L I E S,

B Y
H E N R Y S W I N B U R N E, Eſq.

I N
The Years 1777, 1778, 1779, and 1780.

V O L. II.

Q U I D V E R U M A T Q U E D E C E N S C U R O—

H O R.

L O N D O N:
P R I N T E D B Y J. D A V I S,
F O R P. E L M S L Y, I N T H E S T R A N D.
M.DCC.LXXXV.

Richard Henry Beaumont

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

OF THE

SECOND VOLUME.

S ECTION I. <i>Environs of Naples—Capri—Villa of Tiberius—Quails—La Marina—Anacapri.</i>	1
SECT. II. <i>Procida—Divers—John of Procida—Ischia—Eruption of Lava—Baths—Mount Epomeo—Hermitage.</i>	9
SECT. III. <i>Baths—Foria—History of Ischia—Liternum—Scipio's Tomb and Villa—Cuma.</i>	17
SECT. IV. <i>Lake Fusaro—Tomb of Marius—Promontory of Miseno—Mare Morto—Dockyard of Augustus—Piscina Mirabile—Elysian Fields.</i>	23
SECT. V. <i>Bauli—Ruins of Baiae—History of Baiae—Nero's Baths—Monte Novo—Lucrine Lake.</i>	28
SECT. VI. <i>Lake Averno—Its History—Temple.</i>	35
SECT. VII. <i>Puzzuoli—Temple of Serapis—Via Campana—Solfatara—Park of Astruni—Boar Hunting—Lake of Agnano.</i>	39
SECT. VIII. <i>Nisida—Posilipo—Tomb of Sannazar—His Character—Grotto—Tomb of Virgil—Pollio's Ponds.</i>	45
SECT. IX. <i>View and Description of Naples.</i>	59
SECT. X. <i>Lottery—Municipal Government.</i>	67
SECT. XI. <i>History of Naples—Character of the ancient and present Inhabitants compared—Jews.</i>	74
SECT. XII. <i>Caserta Palace—Aqueduct—Breed of Horses.</i>	86
SECT. XIII. <i>Journey to and from Pesto—Herculaneum—Palace and Museum of Portici—Encampment—Pompeii.</i>	91
SECT. XIV. <i>La Scafato—Nocera—Siege of the Castle—Character of Inhabitants</i>	106
SECT. XV. <i>Ancient Church—Fine View—La Cava—Abbey of La Trinita.</i>	112
SECT. XVI.	

SECT. XVI.	<i>Description of Salerno.</i>	118
SECT. XVII.	<i>History—School of Physic.</i>	124
<i>Pæstum</i>	SECT. XVIII. <i>Description of the Ruins of Pæstum—History.</i>	131
	SECT. XIX. <i>Manner of catching Wood-pidgeons—Convent of Camaldoli in the Mountains—Majuri.</i>	140
	SECT. XX. <i>Description and History of Amalfi—Institution of the Order of Malta—Discovery of the Nautical Compass.</i>	147
	SECT. XXI. <i>Pandeets found.</i>	156
	SECT. XXII. <i>Tunny Fishery—Isles of the Sirens—Spirits of Donevana.</i>	160
	SECT. XXIII. <i>Geographical View of Sicily—Coins, Weights, and Measures.</i>	169
	SECT. XXIV. <i>History of Sicily.</i>	175
	SECT. XXV. <i>Voyage to Palermo.</i>	189
	SECT. XXVI. <i>History and Description of Palermo.</i>	194
	SECT. XXVII. <i>Insurrection.</i>	200
	SECT. XXVIII. <i>Assemblies—Museum.</i>	206
	SECT. XXIX. <i>Environs of Palermo—Monte Pelegrino—Sanctuary of St. Rosalia—La Bagaria—Villa Palagonia.</i>	209
	SECT. XXX. <i>Ruins of Solus—Villa Valguarnera—Manna Ass—Montreale—Character of the late Archbishop—Torre Zizza.</i>	217
	SECT. XXXI. <i>Journey to Girgenti—Favarotta—Alcamo.</i>	224
	SECT. XXXII. <i>Calatafimi—Ruins of Segesta—Evening Assembly.</i>	231
	SECT. XXXIII. <i>Open Country—View of the African Sea—Castelvetrano.</i>	236
	SECT. XXXIV. <i>Vale of the Madiuni—Ruins of Selinus—Banks of the river Belici.</i>	242
	SECT. XXXV. <i>Sciacca—Civil Dissentions between Luna and Perollo—Caricatore—Corn Trade.</i>	248
	SECT. XXXVI. <i>Description of Sciacca—Mineral Water—Baths.</i>	253
	SECT. XXXVII. <i>Ribera—Language of Sicily.</i>	260
	SECT. XXXVIII. <i>Passage of the Platani—Siculiana—New Port of Girgenti.</i>	265
	SECT. XXXIX. <i>History of Girgenti—Description of the present City—Museum.</i>	272
	SECT. XL.	

C O N T E N T S.

vii

SECT. XL. <i>Description of the ancient City.</i>	280
SECT. XLI. <i>Ditto.</i>	285
SECT. XLII. <i>Journey to Syracuse—Mines of Sulphur—Palma.</i>	292
SECT. XLIII. <i>Alicata—Barilla—Terranova—Ruins.</i>	297
SECT. XLIV. <i>Forest—Honey—Calatagerone—Style of Living.</i>	304
SECT. XLV. <i>View of Etna—History and Description of Lentini— Felicity of the Plains—Fine Prospect—Column of Marcellus—Ruins of Syracuse.</i>	313
SECT. XLVI. <i>Extent and Division of ancient Syracuse—Ortygie—The present City—Temple—Fountain of Arethusa.</i>	324
SECT. XLVII. <i>Achradina—Catacombs.</i>	331
SECT. XLVIII. <i>Tycha—Old Walls and Gates—Epipolæ—Neapolis. Theatre—Ear of Dionysius.</i>	331
SECT. XLIX. <i>Productions—Climate—Port—River Anapus—Foun- tain of Cyane.</i>	341
SECT. L. <i>Journey to Messina—Ruins of Agnuni—Abundance of Game. —Immense Plains—Giaretta.</i>	347
SECT. LI. <i>Museum of Biscari—Veil of St. Agatha—History of Cata- nia—Museum of the Benedictines.</i>	353
SECT. LII. <i>Description of Catania—Villa of the Prince of Biscari</i>	360
SECT. LIII. <i>Journey to Etna—Eruptions—Woods—Effects of the Scanto.</i>	364
SECT. LIV. <i>Chestnut Tree of an Hundred Horse—Eruption of Hot Water.</i>	372
SECT. LV. <i>Site of Naxos—Taormina—Theatre—Tombs.</i>	378
SECT. LVI. <i>Description of Messina—Port—Charybdis—Letter of the Virgin Mary—La Catholica—Greek Protopapa.</i>	385
SECT. LVII. <i>History of Messina—Revolt—Plague.</i>	397
SECT. LVIII. <i>Trade to Sicily.</i>	401
SECT. LIX. <i>Voyage to Tropea—Faro of Messina—Rock of Scilla— Earthquake of 1783.</i>	415
SECT. LX. <i>Fishery—Stromboli—Tropea.</i>	421
SECT. LXI. <i>Journey to Naples—Monteleone—Ruins of Hipponium.</i>	429
SECT. LXII. <i>Swine-herds—Nicastro—Destruction of St. Eufemia.</i>	438
SECT. LXIII. <i>Mountains of La Sila—Abbot Joachim.</i>	449
SECT. LXIV.	

SECT. LXIV. <i>Excursion to Paula—History of St. Francis—His Pidgeons.</i>	456
SECT. LXV. <i>History and Description of Cosenza—Tomb of Alaric—Vale of the Crati—Bisignano—History of its Princes—Tarsia—Monte Polino—Murano.</i>	461
SECT. LXVI. <i>Campo Temeſe—Woods—Vale of Diano—River loſes itſelf—Appears again at La Pertofa—Arrival at Naples.</i>	471
SECT. LXVII. <i>Journey to Rome—Averſa—Murder of Andrew of Hungary—Old Capua—Amphitheatre—History—Modern Capua.</i>	486
SECT. LXVIII. <i>Seſſa—Plains of the Garigliano—Ruins of Minturnæ—Mola di Gaeta—Gaeta.</i>	494
SECT. LXIX. <i>Formian Villa of Cicero—His Death and Character—Tomb—Fondi—Old Walls—Plundered by the Turks.</i>	502
SECT. LXX. <i>Journey to Avezzano—Carſoli—Entrance of Abruzzo—Tagliocozzo—Battle and Defeat of Conradine—St. Maria della Vittoria—Alba—Avezzano.</i>	510
SECT. LXXI. <i>Lake of Celano—Ancient Marſi—Emiſſarium made by Claudius—Opening of the Sluices—Account of Abruzzo—Productions—Character of the Natives—Return to Rome—Sora—Cicero's Villa near Arpinum—Iſola.</i>	517

E N V I R O N S

O F

N A P L E S.

SECTION I.

AFTER my return from Puglia, I devoted the cooler days of the ensuing summer and autumn to excursions in the neighbourhood of Naples, a country already described by many authors; but, as several of my readers may not possess those descriptions, I hope no apology need be made for including the capital in my general tour of the kingdom.

My first voyage was to the island of Capri *, about eighteen miles south of Naples, at the entrance of the gulf. Steep cliffs and grand masses of rock gave it a

* Anciently called Capreae.

wildness of feature which, as I approached, was gradually softened by patches of verdure and clusters of white houses.

The landscape round the place of debarking is composed of various trees rich in luxuriant foliage, cottages raised on terraces, a smooth strand with busy groups of mariners, painted boats drawn on shore, or dancing on the surge, villas peeping through the grove, and to complete the scene, bold rocks projecting into the bosom of the deep. On a ridge between two rugged eminencies, which form the extremities of the island, and rear their shaggy summits to a tremendous height, I discovered the cupolas and buildings of the episcopal city; at a distance it had the appearance of a considerable place, on a nearer view it dwindled to a village.

From the town I followed an antient causeway to the eastern summit of Capri, where cliffs of stupendous attitude overhang the channel that separates the island from Cape Campanella*. Though my eyes had long been accustomed to vast, as well as charming prospects, yet the view from hence is so extensive, grand and beautiful, that it was impossible to behold it without emotions of surprise and rapture: At one glance I took in a range of coast exceeding one hundred miles in length, reaching from Mondragone to Cape della Licosa. Within these bounds is comprised an assemblage of objects that few countries can boast of;

* Anciently, Promontorium Athenæum, or Minervæ.

before me lay several rich and populous Islands; Naples, with all its hills and swarming suburbs, backed by the towering Appenine; Vesuvius pouring forth volumes of smoke; at its feet innumerable villages and verdant plains contrasted with purple lavas; immediately under me Minerva's Promontory advancing towards Capri, and dividing the Neapolitan Bay from the semicircular basin of Salerno, at the bottom of which the sun-beams pointed out the white ruins of Pæstum. The magnificence of this scene would baffle the skill of the greatest painter; how feeble then must be the idea my description can convey of the prospect enjoyed from the chapel of Santa Maria: This is a hermitage inhabited by a simple unlettered Anachoret, who vegetates on a spot, where persons of a very different cast of character once resided. Here stood the summer palace of Tiberius Cæsar; here he spent great part of ten years, hidden from the world, and wallowing in most beastly debaucheries; the filthy detail of his abominable life has been handed down to us by many authors, and recites such practices as seem incompatible with his advanced age and complicated infirmities; but the obscene sculptures and medals, which have been dug up in almost every corner of the island, prove to demonstration that the charge against him is well founded.

A person, whose history of Capri is yet in manuscript, undertakes to defend Tiberius, and to prove that Suetonius is at least guilty of exaggeration; he argues that
the

ENVIRONS OF NAPLES.

the only intelligence he could receive must have been drawn from vulgar report, not from any private documents, as whatever passed in Capri was hidden from the public eye; few had admission into an island chosen by a jealous sovereign for his place of retirement, not so much on account of its local beauties, as of the difficulty of access to it; whatever scenes these rocks might be witnesses to were kept a profound secret, and this very air of mystery would naturally set the idle heads of Rome upon inventing a thousand strange tales to depreciate a prince already so universally detested. But to allow any force to the arguments advanced by this paradoxical author, we must suppose that all persons subservient to the brutal pleasures of the emperor were destroyed after his decease, or preserved an invincible silence, for neither of which hypotheses we have the least authority.

Before Tiberius came hither, Capri had attracted the notice of Augustus, as a most eligible retreat, though in sight of populous cities, and almost in the center of the empire.

His successor preferred it to every other residence, and in order to vary his pleasures, and enjoy the advantages as well as avoid the inconveniences of each revolving season, built twelve villas in different situations, dedicated to the twelve greater Gods; the ruins of some of them are still to be seen; at Santa Maria are extensive vaults and reservoirs, and on an adjoining brow are the remains of a
light-

light-house; two broken columns indicate the entrance of the principal court.

From hence I descended to the southern shore, where the Carthusians have a very spacious convent, founded in the reign of king Robert by James Capri a veteran commander. The side of the opposite hill is cut into terraces, supported by vaults, called *le Botteghe*, or the shops of the ancients; if they were built for that purpose, no doubt they were decorated with every elegant species of ornament that could allure the rich and indolent followers of the imperial court; at present all embellishments of art are torn off, and their place supplied by tufts of caper bushes laden with purple and white flowers, that mingle most happily with the ruined arcades.

I spent the sultry hours of the day in a house that overlooks the finest part of the island; across every break in the woods, or chasm in the hills, rows of nets are placed to intercept stock-doves and quails in their annual flights; the quantity taken of each sort, especially the latter, is almost incredible; I have the best authority for saying that even in bad years the number of quails caught in Capri amounts to twelve thousand; in good years it exceeds sixty thousand, and in one remarkable year one hundred and sixty thousand were netted; eight years ago, in the month of May, forty-five thousand were taken in the course of one single day.

As soon as the heat abated and the leaves began to tremble with the evening zephyr, I wandered northwards through vineyards and orchards to the palace of La Marina, where Tiberius had a winter residence ; columns and other fragments of architecture scattered on the sands remain as memorials of its splendour ; a semicircular recess of network, the opus reticulatum of Vitruvius, raised against the cliff, seems to have been a part of the theatre ; the conduit that supplied the palace with water still exists.

In an adjacent vineyard some peasants were removing a pavement of black and white mosaic. The ruins stretch far into the sea, and that element has now resumed the territory from which it had formerly been expelled by the force of terraces and piers.

The soil is here richly vegetative, and composed of divers layers ; a deep stratum of good mould covers a yellow bole, under which lies a stone exactly similar to the tufa of the volcanical hills round Naples. The palace was built with this stone, but in its coarser parts, such as abutments and back walls, are inserted large pieces of lava in a rough state of torrefaction, like that of the crust of Vesuvian streams when cooled ; yet the upper rocks of Capri are universally calcareous, and homogeneous with the strata of the Sorrentine mountains, of which it appears to have been a part, till split asunder and cast off by an earthquake that buried the intermediate grounds in the sea : perhaps these lower tracks of land in Capri have been thrown up
by

by fire in the midst of lime-stone mountains, in the same manner as the plain of Sorrento.

According to Dion Cassius, this island was wild and barren before the Cæsars took it under their immediate protection; at this day a large portion of its surface is uncultivated and impracticable, but every spot that will admit the hoe is industriously tilled, and richly laden with the choicest productions of agriculture. The odium attached to the memory of Tiberius proved fatal to his favourite abode; scarce was his death proclaimed at Rome, 'ere the senate issued orders for the demolition of every fabrick he had raised on the island, which by way of punishment was thenceforward destined to be a state prison. The wife and sister of Commodus were banished to its inhospitable rocks, which were soon stained with their blood.

In the middle ages Capri became an appendage of the Amalfitan republic, and after the downfall of that state, belonged to the duchy of Naples.

The accommodations at the inn were so bad that I preferred the awning of my boat to its beds, and rose with the day to climb the western rocks, which separate the district of Anacapri from the rest of the island; the communication is maintained between them by means of a long flight of rugged steps winding up a cliff of frightful height. These stairs are steep and slippery, yet loaded asses find no difficulty in going up and down. Anacapri is a little town consisting of a few streets and scattered houses,
a nun-

a nunnery and a parish church, all charmingly embowered in groves of fruit trees, and surrounded with gardens neatly drest and luxuriantly productive; yet I could perceive a great backwardness in the fruits of this region compared with those of the low grounds. The territory of Anacapri lies on a declivity, inclining to the north, bounded by a high rocky shore impervious to all attacks: the southern and eastern aspects are perpendicular precipices of an astonishing elevation. On the brink of one of them stand the ruins of a castle more perilously situated than any I ever saw.

The rays of the sun now began to dart with great force, and warned me to hasten down to my barge, that the middle hours of the day might be spent at sea, where the heat is much more supportable than on shore.

This isle reunites such a variety of beauties and advantages, that it is a matter of wonder to me, why so few of our mysanthropic countrymen resort to it; a man of an indolent philosophical cast would here be suited with a scene for meditation and solitary enjoyments; the temperature of the air, and the excellence of the fruits would secure his health; and the delightful scenery round him would dispel his cares, and give an even cheerful flow to his spirits. An English gentleman of the name of Thorold spent many years of his life here, at a charming retreat, which he had formed with every convenience the climate required,

required, in one of the most agreeable situations upon the island. If I am not misinformed, he breathed his last, and was interred in this his favourite residence.

SECTION II.

WE stretched across the channel, which is about eighteen miles broad, with spreading sails, though we were threatened with squalls and showers; but no sooner had we weathered the east cape of Ischia, than a sudden gust laid the skiff on its side, and very near overfet us. —The sailors shewed great presence of mind, and having dextrously lowered their canvases, took to their oars, without noise or confusion. The gale increased so furiously, and both wind and current bore so hard against us, that we were glad to fly for shelter to a cavern under the royal palace of Procida *: Here the water was smooth as glass, and while the storm raged without, our barge lay motionless on the deep clear pool. A boy belonging to the crew amused himself and me with diving for pieces of money which I threw into the water: There are few divers more expert than the Neapolitans; I have frequently found their stay under water to exceed two minutes, and have been assured that some can and do remain longer. Their com-

* Anciently Prochyta.

mon method of taking oysters, sea urchins, and other shell fish, is to plunge in head foremost among the rocks of Posilipo or Santa Lucia, and with a strong knife wrench the shells off the stones to which they adhere, then, rising to the surface, throw their booty into a floating basket tied to their foot. This fishery brings in a handsome profit, amounting to eight or ten carlini a day to each diver, but the violence of the exertion, and the pressure of the water, weaken their lungs and shorten their lives; few reach the age of thirty years. When they go in search of the razor fish, called in Neapolitan* *cannolicchi*, they walk up to their chins in the sea backwards and forwards, with the greatest gravity and attention, moving their feet sideways along the sand till they feel the sharp edge of a razor shell, then they dart down with amazing rapidity and seize their prey. From this stately deportment comes the local proverbial expression for a person walking about in a brown study, he is fishing for *cannolicchi*.

The upper part of the cliffs of Procida, in which many spacious caverns have been worn by the waves, or left empty in the convulsive boilings that raised the island above the waters, is a tufa stone of various hues, brown, white, yellow and purple. Near the edge of the sea, and below its surface, the foundation of this ponderous mass is a stratum of rough dark-purple lava. The king's house

* *Solen Ensis.* Linnæo *Vermes.* *Testacea.*

stands on the point of this excavated promontory, and contiguous to it is the town of S. Cataldo, built upon an elevated isthmus that divides the channel, through which ships coming from the north are wont to pass, from a round harbour, fit only for the reception of small vessels. The king sometimes visits this place for the sake of shooting.

This island gave birth to, or was at least the property of John of Procida, a man of great fame in the annals of the thirteenth century. Though rich and nobly born, this extraordinary person did not disdain the practice of physic, but improved a strong natural genius by every help the scanty knowledge of the age afforded. The great features of his character were, sagacity in forming a scheme; activity, daringness and perseverance in pursuing it; with these qualities, he undertook to revenge himself and his countrymen of the Provençals, who, under Charles of Anjou, had reduced both Sicilies to slavery, and destroyed the house of Swabia. Some authors ascribe his animosity to a personal insult received from that prince, but Procida seems to have wanted no stronger incitement than his inviolable attachment to the memory of his old masters, and a quick sense of his country's wrongs. The plan for destroying the French being settled, he prepared the catastrophe by unwearied pains and exertions: under a variety of disguises, he visited Spain and Greece to excite the ambition of their respective sovereigns; he insinuated himself into the private meetings of the Sicilians, and by incendiary discourses

discourses fed the fire of discontent, 'till he saw the proper moment for blowing it up into a flame: at his nod, though perhaps the crisis was hastened by some accidental outrages, all Sicily rose in arms at the sound of the fatal evening bell *, and almost every Frenchman perished.

The earliest writers of history speak of Procida, as of land torn from the continent by the violence of earthquakes and fiery commotions. It must have long remained unfit for the purposes of society, for in the time of the first Cæsars it is described as a desert; at present it is neither fruitful nor agreeable to the eye.

The wind being abated, we stood out again, and landed at the Borgo d' Ischia †, a pretty town of white buildings, and the residence of a bishop. A round rock, as black as if just launched out of the bowels of a volcano, forms a kind of haven by means of a causeway communicating with the Borgo; its summit and sides are covered with houses, old turrets, and ruinous fortifications huddled together, and accessible only on one side, by a steep winding road. The last princes of the illegitimate branch of Arragon took refuge in this fortress, when their capital opened its gates to the French conqueror: the Ischians were strongly attached to that family, most of them being descended from Spanish veterans settled there

* The massacre known by the name of the Sicilian Vespers, on Easter Tuesday, March 30, 1282.

† In ancient times the island of Ischia was known by the names of Inarime, Arime, Pithecusa.

by Alphonfus the First, on the forfeited estates of the former inhabitants.

From the Borgo I proceeded on foot along high grounds that hang over the shore, and soon arrived at a bed or stagnated torrent of lava, near a quarter of a mile broad, fresh and bare as if lately cast out of the furnace, but in a rougher more disturbed form, and of a greyer colour than that of the Vesuvian lavas. I ascended about a mile to the crater, which is on the declivity of the central mountain of the island, circular, shallow, and embanked with a vast mound of cinders; it is full of lava twisted and curled as if, while in a fluid state, it had been stirred round with a stick: no vegetation has as yet taken place on these substances, though they have been exposed to the air since the year 1301. The eruption lasted near two months, and caused such devastation in the human and animal species, by the malignity of its vapours and poisonous quality of its ashes, that whoever could escape fled from this land of horror. The furious workings under ground forced up a prodigious quantity of stones besides liquid matter, and rocks were formed in the sea, where they still appear above water.

Having passed this scene of desolated nature, I struck into a romantic path that led me through neat hamlets, before the gates and avenues of small well situated villas, and across vineyards and orchards rich in a variety of productions; now and then it drew me over uneven heaths
grown

grown up with myrtles, honeysuckles, and numberless other sorts of flowers from which my feet dashed up clouds of perfume; the sea beat gently below, and on my left hand the lofty mountain Epomeo cast a shadow over all the lesser hills. At the end of my walk, a gentleman, who was apprised of my coming, received me with great civility at his house, which commands one of the finest prospects in the island; the beauty of a noble expanse of water is happily contrasted with the more variegated elegance of the land view; for the country is a perfect garden, dotted with houses of a picturesque form and lively colour.

As soon as the ensuing dawn appeared, I ascended Epomeo, a mountain from which the whole island falls in a gentle slope each way, except to the north, where its sides are more abrupt, and large piles of pointed rocks appear through the forest. I rode upon an ass, the safe and only conveyance in these steep and difficult roads.

My first halt was at the hot baths of La Misericordia, where a crowd of sick people was bathing in the smoking spring; there is a spacious hospital adjoining: I could not stay to admire the beauties of the situation, for the effluvia of the waters were fetid in a supreme degree, and the sight of so many patients afflicted with cutaneous and loathsome complaints extremely disagreeable. I hurried away to pleasanter scenes, by a path that winds up the hill, and sometimes crosses narrow glens; it led me through groves of aged chestnut trees, and over wastes covered with
aromatic

aromatic plants, to the south side of the mountain; occasional glimpses through the glades beguiled the tediousness of the way, and prepared me for the unparalleled prospect I was to enjoy from the summit. At last I rose above the woody region, and entered a naked track riven to pieces by torrents, that rush down the cliffs after the melting of the snows in spring, or the heavy rains that follow the autumnal equinox; the soil is a white clay; the jagged peaks that compose the cone of the mountain are either yellow stone or white marley earth, scarce affording room for cultivation; but in all the patches of level ground, vines and fruit trees seem to thrive very well. I arrived at the summit just as the sun had extricated his orb out of a mass of heavy vapours that still hung upon the Appenine: as his rays diverged, the fogs that floated on the sea vanished, and a view rose gradually to sight, of which so weak a pencil as mine can never give an adequate idea. The distant part of the picture displayed the most admirable marine and terrestrial scenery, while the fore-ground exhibited the richness of a fertile populous island. This vast expanse of sea and land lay unfolded before me like a chart on which every object was marked with precision.

The pinnacle of Epomeo is a white rock of tufa, in the heart of which is hewn a church, cells, galleries, and other conveniencies for seven hermits, under the patronage of Saint Nicholas. These recluses subsist upon alms collected thrice a week about the island, while the season permits,
but

but during some months of the year the snow lies so deep on this peak as to shut them out from all communication with mankind, and leave them undisturbed in their pious meditations. They have some plots of garden, but seem to exert themselves little in the culture or improvement of them; they find begging a much easier and pleasanter mode of procuring subsistence; the cells are dirty, and their inhabitants appear to have no turn for study or mechanics; their prior is a Frenchman, who twenty years ago was governor of the castle of Ischia, till moved with compunction for the sins of his military life, and despairing of purity of conscience in the foul atmosphere below, he became an anachoret in this exalted region; he has been twelve years confined to his truckle-bed by the gout, but retains a fresh florid complexion and tolerable spirits. The passage to the cells is contrived to wind through the rock so as to admit views of almost every part of the island; towards the south the declivity is very gradual to the sea, and cloathed in the richest garb of vegetative nature: the north side of the mountain is more abrupt and destitute of verdure; at the foot of its tremendous point lies a circular basin, from whence, in former times, issued flames and fiery torrents, that overwhelmed the country; but its operations have ceased during such an immense series of years, that the borders are tumbled in, and almost every distinctive feature of a crater obliterated. I descended through
it

it on foot to il Laco, a most delightful spot, where I took a boat, and spent the evening on the water, on a fishing party.

SECTION III.

NEXT day I visited the adjoining *stuse*, or vapour-baths, erected on a neck of land, which is composed of red and white solar earth, strongly impregnated with sulphur and other minerals, the usual concomitants of volcanos. All Ischia is of fiery origin, and this north-west angle more disturbed, and more overturned by eruptions, than any other part of it; its hillocks, wildly tumbled together, are mere heaps of red calcined stone, full of heterogeneous matter, and tinged with various hues; under the baths the clay is full of red lumps, incrustated with chrysalisations. Patients are accommodated in five hovels, with seats to receive the vapour, which soon provokes perspiration, but sends forth no very pungent smell; persons suffering from partial pains fumigate the afflicted limb by applying it to a funnel made to fit it.

At the distance of a mile south of these sudatories is the town of Foria, inhabited by an industrious people; they employ a considerable number of small vessels in the carriage of their fruit and wines; but the want of a harbour exposes them to great losses in stormy weather. The houses of this burgh are solidly built; but the streets are

almost too narrow for an ass with a pair of panniers. The environs are extremely fertile; the young women I met coming down the mountain, with baskets of figs on their heads, are tall and handsome; their features regularly fine, their eyes sparkling, their shape and gait light and airy beyond expression.

At Foria I embarked for Ponza, and took my leave of Ischia, an island, which for richness of soil, abundance of products, and beauty of situation, may vie with the most celebrated spots on the face of the globe: these advantages have drawn many settlers to its shores, and added eight thousand new inhabitants to its list in the last thirty years.

The ancients believed Ischia to have been raised out of the bosom of the deep by the force of central fires: the Chalcydians were the first adventurers that dared to set foot on this igneous soil, and were amply repaid for their risks, by the immense wealth they drew from the settlement: however, continual earthquakes and eruptions forced them to abandon the place. Hiero, king of Syracuse, who was indefatigable in advancing the commercial interests of his dominions, sent a colony to this island; but the emoluments falling short of his expectation, he soon withdrew his people; since that epocha, Ischia has usually obeyed the masters of the adjacent continent, and passed to new proprietors, in consequence of the same revolutions that transmitted the sovereignty of the neighbouring country.

The wind was so brisk and contrary, that after many vain attempts, we found it impossible to reach the islands of Ponza; it therefore became necessary to form a new plan, and to steer to the dreary flat shore of Patria, where, on the edge of a large pond, are some heaps of stones, the ruins of Liternum.*

Hither P. Cornelius Scipio Africanus withdrew from the accusations of his enemies, and spent his latter days in philosophical retirement: by this voluntary exile, he preserved his person from indignity, without being indebted for his safety to a dispensation of any positive though unjust law of his country. Seneca mentions having slept in the villa which two hundred years before had been the asylum of that hero: he describes it as a substantial building, in a garden, surrounded with high walls, and flanked with towers, to defend it against a sudden attack; in it was a cistern capable of containing water enough for an army to drink; and for the private use of the master, a small gloomy bath after the simple fashion of those times.† This shore was probably less unwholesome when Scipio lived here, than it is in its present uncultivated state, overflowed with

* Its coins bear the names of Cuma and Liternum jointly, and are of Roman times. They differ very little from the medals of Naples.

† Vidi villam structam lapide quadrato murum circumdatum sylvæ; turres quoque in propugnaculum villæ utrimque subrectas, cisternam ædificiis et viridibus subditam quæ sufficere in usum vel exercitus posset; balneolum angustum tenebricosum ex consuetudine antiquâ.

fetid pools of brackish water; but whatever allowances may be made for diminution of culture and population, and for increase of water and noxious steams, I cannot think so low and flat a coast can ever have been a good summer abode.

If tradition can be relied upon, Scipio's ashes were deposited here, and the word *Patria* still remaining fixed in the wall of a watch-tower, and giving name to the adjacent lake, is a fragment of his * angry epitaph. It is at least certain, that no urn or monumental inscription belonging to this illustrious member of the family has been found in the sepulchre of the Scipios lately discovered at Rome, near the gate of Saint Sebastian.

From hence we rowed about six miles eastward to the insulated rock on which stood the citadel of Cuma; the first city founded in Italy by Grecian emigrants†, once the seat of commerce, the parent of Naples, and the capital of a state that ruled the seas before either Rome or Carthage were heard of; its prosperity was of long continuance, while yet the power of infant Rome remained cramped within the narrow limits of her own plain. Under the sway of Aristodemus, Cuma afforded an asylum to Tarquin the

* This epitaph, as given by modern authors, runs thus : *Ingrata Patria neque enim mea ossa habebis.*

† I mean according to the opinion of the Greek historians; for it is more than probable that the Tyrrhenians, and other ancient inhabitants of Italy, came originally from Greece and other eastern countries.

Proud,

Proud, the deposed king of Rome, whom all the neighbouring potentates had attempted in vain to assist, or had refused relief to. This harbourer of a banished prince had attained the height of power, by subverting the liberties of his country. In the 64th Olympiad, the Tyrrhenians attacked Cuma, in hopes of plundering her rich stores, the fruits of long and successful traffic, but were driven off with loss: in this emergency the republic owed her safety to the courage and conduct of Aristodemus, and rewarded his services with every mark of honour a free state can bestow. He soon became so popular a leader, as to excite the jealousy of the senate; with a view to his destruction, they sent him with a very small force to defend the city of Aricia against the Tuscans; but by the exertion of great military talents, Aristodemus terminated the campaign gloriously, and when he returned to Cuma, availed himself of the attachment of the troops to destroy his enemies, and usurp the sovereign authority: he reigned many years with despotic sway, but at length, as it has happened to many other tyrants, was betrayed by his own creatures, and, with his whole family, put to the sword.

As Rome advanced in her fortunate career, the glory of all the neighbouring powers faded away before her; the Cumæans, in their turn, submitted to her yoke, and were treated with lenity; but real liberty was gone, and trade abandoned their shores; at length, the dullness and solitude

tude of the place grew so profound, as to pass into a proverb*. The Goths reduced it still lower, and at last, being merely a receptacle for thieves, it was in 1207 totally ruined and forsaken.

This rocky hill is the produce of an eruption, and hollowed into many spacious caverns, amongst which we look in vain for the grotto where the Cumæan sybil pronounced her oracles; that sanctuary was destroyed in the Gothic war. Agathias informs us, that it was scooped into the form of a temple,† the roof of which served as a foundation for one of the principal towers of the fortress. When Narfes invested the citadel, he caused this rocky cover to be cut through in several directions, and then propped up with beams; as soon as every thing was in readiness for the assault, the wood was set on fire. Upon the props being consumed, the rocks gave way, and brought the walls down headlong with them into the temple; and on these accumulated ruins the Imperial troops entered the breach.

Cuma extended across the plain towards the east, where many ruins are still to be seen: every heavy shower of rain brings to light some fragment of the opulence and taste of

* *Vacuæ Cumæ.*—*Quicta Cyme*, &c.

† The hermitage of Warkworth in Northumberland, celebrated by the muse of the Bishop of Dromore, may serve to give an idea of this sybiline grotto.

its inhabitants. A large brick arch, called l'Arco Felice, thrown across a chasm in the ridge that bounds the plain on the east side, is supposed to have been a gate of the city, or a passage under a Roman aqueduct, not a monument of the ancient Cumæan republic.

S E C T I O N I V.

I HERE took boat, and landed at the emissary or canal by which the lake Fusaro discharges its superfluous waters into the sea of Ischia. Here my conductors shewed me the ruins of the tomb of Caius Marius. As I am apt to believe that popular tales have always some foundation, however feeble, to rest upon, I think it probable that the ashes of that great consul may have been removed from Rome, where he died, and deposited in a mausoleum near his favourite Campanian villa.

The lake is destitute of beauty, but valuable on account of its fisheries, and the flocks of water-fowl that blacken its surface. I sent my boat round and walked across the isthmus, between Cape Procida and the Baian hills, under a continued canopy of vines; this path led me to the Mare-morto *, a double pool, of which the outer division is open

* This lake is said to be full of the worm that eats through the planks of ships.—As I saw none, I cannot speak with precision either as to its existence in those waters, or the species of the insect.

to the sea, the inner one occasionally shut up for the purpose of fishing. A slip of sand divides it from the channel of Procida, and at the extremity rises the solitary shelving promontory of Miseno; the ruins of a city of that name are scattered at its foot, and the remains of a theatre are very apparent; a fine fragment of the marble cornice is still left to bear testimony of the elegance with which it was decorated in the richest luxuriance of the composite order.

When the second triumvirate perceived that their usurped power could never acquire consistency without the command at sea, they set about creating a maritime force; Classis above Ravenna was appointed to be the station of the fleet that was to over-awe the Adriatic, while an arsenal and rendezvous were established at Misenum for the defence of the Mediterranean; in the infancy of their project the navy of Octavianus Cæsar was almost annihilated off this very cape by the fleet of Sextus Pompeius, a misfortune that served only to urge the cool persevering genius of the triumvir to redouble his activity in the pursuit of so great an object: he converted the natural cavities of Misenus into magazines, and by means of new roads opened a communication with the circumjacent country; wholesome waters, which were not to be found on the spot, were collected at various distances, and brought upon aqueducts into immense reservoirs; the largest of these receptacles remains to this day in great preservation,

vation, and is known by the name of *Piscina mirabile* ; it is a subterraneous cistern divided into alleys by rows of square pillars upon which an arched roof is rested ; the incrustation formed anciently upon the plaistered walls by the sediment of the water, is now so strong an alabaster, as almost to defy the pick-axe, and so thick and compact, as to be susceptible of a very fine polish.

On this peninsula a villa was built by Caius Marius, with a degree of elegance that gave great offence to the more austere among the Romans, who thought it ill-suited to the character of so rough a foldier ; upon the same foundation Lucullus, the plunderer of the eastern world, erected an edifice, in comparison of which the former house was a cottage ; but even his magnificence was eclipsed by the splendour of the palace which the emperors raised upon the same spot. To these proud abodes of heroes and monarchs, which have long been levelled to the ground, a few fishing huts, and a lonely public house, have succeeded ; hither boatmen resort to tipple, perhaps on the identical site where the voluptuous masters of the world quaffed Chian and Falernian wines ; a poor and infirm wretch lay venting his grief and soliciting my alms, within a few yards of the place where Tiberius Cæsar breathed out his gloomy soul. When such striking circumstances were brought into a point of comparison together, I fell into a train of serious reflection, and wrapt up in contemplating the delusive pictures my imagination drew of ancient times,

I felt the same not unpleasant melancholy that has often been excited in my mind by the lecture of the poems attributed to Ossian: I was led to allow too much merit to past ages, to refuse just praise to the times it is my lot to live in, and to repine at being doomed to vegetate in such degenerate days; but the sight of a ship of war, sailing majestically across the gulf, the distant sound of her saluting guns, and the very telescope with which I viewed her progress, soon dispersed those clouds of spleen and false reasoning, and made me return thanks to Providence for having placed my lot in an age wherein arts, commerce, and science are in so flourishing a state.

The channel, where the fleet of Agrippa moored, has now but one crazy cobble, stationed to ferry over passengers: I passed in it to the Elysian fields, which are bounded on the north side by a small eminence, covered with vine-bearing trees; the face of the bank is hollowed into numberless caves and places of sepulture, and an ancient way leads from the ferry towards Capua between rows of monumental buildings, which by an unusual permutation of property, from being filled with the ashes of the dead, are now occupied by living peasants: the reason of this road and its environs being so uncommonly crowded with tombs, arises from the superstitious creed of the Pagans, who held inhumation necessary to salvation, and a grave the only door through which a soul could pass to a future state of happiness: according to the spirit of this tenet, neither
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the inhabitant who died peaceably in his bed at Misenum, nor the mariner who met his fate in battle or in shipwreck, was suffered by his friends to remain without the honours of the tomb: to every person, even of moderate rank, a suitable though perhaps empty mausoleum was erected in order to procure for his departed spirit free ingress into the Elysian shades. These circumstances coincided admirably with the fables and traditions concerning this country, which had been handed down from a very early period; Homer brings Ulysses hither, and here he fixes the scene of his Stygian machinery; thus the Maremorto passed for Acheron, and the adjoining fields for the vale of Elysium to which the dead were wafted in the boat of Charon. This was literally true with regard to such persons as died at Misenum.

On the surface of this funereal ground a strong wine is now produced; it has good qualities, which might be improved by greater care and skilfulness in the operation of the vintage; it possesses body, colour, and flavour, but is extremely rough, fiery, and heady—the price does not exceed eight pence a bottle—Wine merchants buy it up, send it a few months to sea, and then vend it at Naples as liquor of a foreign growth.

As it is hazardous to pass the night on this shore before the equinoctial rains have washed away the baneful atoms, we put out to sea and lay under the rocks of Procida in

still water, till the beams of the rising sun called me up to pursue my route along this very interesting, though now almost deserted coast.

S E C T I O N V.

I RETURNED in the morning to the west of Bauli, where some ruins are shown as the tomb of Agrippina the younger, murdered near this place by order of her son ; it is true that her slaves burnt her body and deposited the ashes on the road to Bauli, but these ruins bear a greater resemblance to a theatre, or hanging garden, than to a sepulchre. The place of her interment is not to be ascertained, for the sea must now cover a large portion of land which formerly contained spacious gardens, fish-ponds, and buildings : Hortensius, the cotemporary and rival of Cicero, possessed a villa on this shore, for which the present confined spot could not possibly afford sufficient space. We next entered a bay, where the placid waters reflect the mutilated remnants of Baiaë, that center of pleasures, that elegant resort of the gay masters of the world. The hot springs and medicinal vapours that abound in its environs must very early have excited the attention of valetudinarians, as bathing was the constant solace of the Greeks while in health, and their remedy when diseased ; but Baiaë does not seem to have attained a degree of celebrity

brity superior to that of other baths, till the Roman commonwealth began to be in the wane; as soon as the plunder of a conquered world was transferred from works of public use and ornament to objects of private luxury, the transcendent advantages which Baiæ offered to Roman voluptuaries, flying from the capital in search of health and pleasure, were attended to with enthusiasm: the variety of its natural baths, the softness of its climate, and the beauties of its landscape, captivated the minds of opulent nobles, whose passion for bathing knew no bounds; abundance of linen and disuse of ointments render the practice less necessary in modern life, but the ancients performed no exercise, engaged in no study, without previous ablutions, which at Rome required an enormous expence in aqueducts, stoves and attendants: a place, therefore, where waters naturally heated to every degree of warmth bubbled spontaneously out of the ground, in the pleasantest of all situations, was such a treasure as could not be overlooked. Baiæ was this place in the highest perfection; its easy communication with Rome was also a point of great weight. Hither at first retired for a temporary relaxation the mighty rulers of the empire, to string anew their nerves and revive their spirits, fatigued with bloody campaigns and civil contests; their habitations were small and modest, but soon increasing luxury added palace to palace with such expedition and sumptuousity, that ground was wanting for the vast demand; enterprising architects, supported by infinite wealth,

wealth, carried their foundations into the sea, and drove that element back from its ancient limits*: it has since taken ample revenge, and recovered much more than it ever lost.

From being a place of resort for a season, Baiæ now grew up to a permanent city; whoever found himself disqualified by age, or infirmity, for sustaining any longer an active part on the political theatre; whoever, from an indolent disposition, sought a place where the pleasures of a town were combined with the sweets of a rural life; whoever wished to withdraw from the dangerous neighbourhood of a court, and the baneful eye of informers, flocked hither, to enjoy life untainted with fear and trouble. Such affluence of wealthy inhabitants rendered Baiæ as much a miracle of art as it was before of nature; its splendour may be inferred from its innumerable ruins, heaps of marbles, mosaics, stucco, and other precious fragments of taste.

It flourished in full glory down to the days of Theodoric the Goth; but the destruction of these enchanted palaces followed quickly upon the irruption of the northern conquerors, who overturned the Roman system, sacked and burnt all before them, and destroyed or dispersed the whole race of nobility. Loss of fortune left the Romans neither the means, nor indeed the thought of supporting such expen-

* *Marisque Baiis obstrepentis urges
Summovere littora.*—HOR.

five establishments, which can only be enjoyed in perfection during peace and prosperity. No sooner had opulence withdrawn her hand, than the unbridled sea rushed back upon its old domain; moles and buttresses were torn asunder and washed away; whole promontories, with the proud towers that once crowned their brows, were undermined and tumbled headlong into the deep, where, many feet below the surface pavements of streets, foundations of houses and masses of walls may still be descried. Internal commotions of the earth contributed also largely to this general devastation; mephitic vapours and stagnated waters have converted this favourite seat of health into the den of pestilence, at least during the estival heats; yet Baïæ in its ruined state, and stripped of all its ornaments, still presents many beautiful and striking subjects for the pencil.

As we rowed under the lofty headlands, a Cicerone, whom I had met with at Baïæ, pointed to vaults and terraces, and allotted them respectively to the residence of some illustrious personage of antiquity. The sands abound with fragments rolled from the ruins, and some men employ themselves in the summer time in dragging the bottom of the sea with small baskets: they wash the sand in several waters, and seldom fail of bringing up a cornelian or medal that repays them for their time and labour.

From the highest point that forms the bay, a large castle commands the road, where foreign ships of war usually ride at anchor, the harbour of Naples not being spacious enough

enough for the reception of a fleet: here they enjoy good shelter, watering, and victualling, but in summer risk the health of their crews, on account of the unwholesomeness of the air.

At the bottom of the bay, and at the foot of the steep rocks which serve as a foundation to the ruins called Nero's house, are some dark caves of great depth, leading to the hottest of all vapour baths: no body can remain long in them, or indeed penetrate to the end, without an extraordinary degree of strength and resolution*. The springs at the bottom of the grotto are so hot as to boil an egg hard almost instantaneously. These caverns seem to be the spot where nature has opened the readiest access to the very focus of a volcano, which has been within the two last centuries most outrageous in its operations; for to them must be attributed the overturning of the adjacent country, and

* These baths, thirty in number, are said, but how truly I know not, to have been adorned with Greek inscriptions, and statues denoting by their expressions and attitudes, what particular part of the human frame was affected and relieved from its pains by each particular bath. Parrino, in his Theatre of Viceroys, informs us, that three physicians of Salerno, apprehensive of the ruin the surprising efficacy and reputation of these waters would bring upon their college, came hither in the dead of night, mutilated the figures, defaced the letters, and as far as their time would allow, disturbed the course of the springs; but the historian adds very gravely, that Hygeia, ever watchful over the health of Naples, revenged this barbarous outrage, by conjuring up a storm that buried the three doctors in the sea, before they could reach their home, or triumph in the success of their villainy.

the total alteration of its surface, by the birth of Monte Nuovo, which now blocks up the valley of Averno. In 1538, after previous notice by repeated quakings, the convulsed earth burst asunder, and made way for a deluge of hot ashes and flames, which being shot up to an immense height into the darkened atmosphere, fell down again all around, and formed a circular mound four miles in circumference, and one thousand feet high, with a large cup in the middle. Immediately after the explosion, the wind rose furiously, and wafted the lighter particles over the country, burning and blasting all vegetation in its progress: wherever these ashes, impregnated with poison, adhered to the grass, death became the immediate lot of all beasts that brouzed upon it. The terrors occasioned by this phenomenon threatened the abandonment of the whole district; scarce a family durst remain even within sight of this horrid heap, which had overwhelmed a large town, filled up a lake, and buried under it a very extensive track of cultivated lands. To encourage people to return to this neighbourhood, Don Pedro de Toledo, viceroy of Naples, built a villa, and fixed his residence at Puzzuoli; his example, and time, that soother of woe, overcame the general consternation; when men are obliged to apply to daily labour for sustenance, and their minds are of course exclusively occupied by the idea of present necessities, the images of past disasters are easily obliterated, and, therefore, in a few years Don Pedro saw this district repopled.

Part of Monte Nuovo is cultivated, but the larger portion of its declivity is wildly overgrown with prickly-broom, and rank weeds that emit a very fetid sulphureous smell. The water is shallow, its inside clad with shrubs, and the little area at the bottom planted with fig and mulberry trees ; a most striking specimen of the amazing vicissitudes that take place in this extraordinary country. I saw no traces of lava or melted matter, and few stones within.

Near the foot of this mountain the subterraneous fires act with such immediate power, that even the sand at the bottom of the sea is heated to an intolerable degree.

A long neck of land prevents the waves from washing into a sedgey pool, the poor remnant of the Lucrine lake, once so renowned for the abundance and flavour of its shell-fish, of which large beds lined the shallows, while a deep channel in the middle afforded riding and anchorage for vessels, and a passage into the inner basin of Avernus ; a small canal now serves to discharge the superabundant waters. I suppose, that originally the Lucrine was only a marsh occasionally overflowed by the sea, 'till Hercules gave it extent and depth, by raising a mound across, and damming out the salt water ; that afterwards Augustus formed the Julian port, by raising this wear to a sufficient level, and thereby procuring depth of water for a navy to float in.

SECTION VI.

A SHADY walk conducted me between Monte Nuovo, and a thicket of reeds, to the banks of Avernus. This lake is circular, and hemmed in by an amphitheatre of hills on every side except the break by which I approached it; distinctive marks of a volcanic crater.

The landscape, though confined, is extremely pleasing; the dark blue surface of these unruffled waters, said to be three hundred and sixty fathom deep, strongly reflects the tapering groves that cover its sloping inclosure; shoals of wild fowl swim about, and kingsfishers shoot along under the banks; a large octagon temple in ruins advances majestically to the brink; its marble ornaments have long been removed, but its form and size still render it a noble object. It was, probably, dedicated to the infernal gods, to whose worship these solemn scenes were formerly consecrated. Black aged groves stretched their boughs over the watery abyss, and with impenetrable foliage excluded almost every ray of wholesome light; mephitic vapours ascending from the hot bowels of the earth, being denied free passage to the upper atmosphere, floated along the surface in poisonous mists. These circumstances produced horrors fit for such gloomy deities; a colony of

Cimmerians, as well suited to the rites as the place itself, cut dwellings in the bosom of the surrounding hills, and officiated as priests of Tartarus. Superstition, always delighting in dark ideas, early and eagerly seized upon this spot, and hither she led her trembling votaries to celebrate her dismal orgies ; here she evoked the manes of departed heroes—here she offered sacrifices to the gods of hell, and attempted to dive into the secrets of futurity. Poets enlarged upon the popular theme, and painted its awful scenery with the strongest colours of their art. Homer brings Ulysses to Avernus, as to the mouth of the infernal abodes, and in imitation of the Grecian bard, Virgil conducts his hero to the same ground. The holiness of these shades remained unimpeached for many ages ; Hannibal marched his army to offer incense at this altar, but, I believe, he was led to this act of devotion rather by the hopes of surprizing the garrison of Puteoli, than by his piety.

After a long reign of undisturbed gloom and celebrity, a sudden glare of light was let in upon Avernus ; the horrors were dispelled, and with them vanished the sanctity of the lake ; the axe of Agrippa brought its forest to the ground ; disturbed its sleepy waters with ships, and gave room for all its malignant effluvia to escape. The virulence of these exhalations is described by ancient authors as very extraordinary ; modern writers, who know the place in a cleared state only, charge these accounts with
ex-

exaggeration; but I think them entitled to more respect, for even now the air is feverish and dangerous, as the jaundiced faces of the vine-dressers, who have succeeded the Sybils and the Cimmerians in the possession of the temple, most ruefully testify.

Boccaccio relates, that, during his residence at the Neapolitan court, the surface of this lake was suddenly covered with dead fish, black and finged, as if killed by some *subaqueous* eruption of fire. At present it abounds with tench; the Lucrine with eels. The change of fortune in these lakes is singular: In the splendid days of imperial Rome, the Lucrine was the chosen spot for the brilliant parties of pleasure of a voluptuous court; they are described by Seneca as the highest refinement of extravagance and luxury; now, a slimy bed of rushes covers the scattered pools of this once beautiful sheet of water, and the dusky Avernus is now clear and serene, offering a most alluring surface and charming scene for similar amusements.

Opposite the temple I entered a cave usually styled the sybil's grotto; it seems more likely to have been the mouth of a communication between Cuma and Avernus, than the abode of a prophets; especially as the sybil is positively said by historians to have dwelt in a cavern under the Cumæan citadel. A most acute and indefatigable unraveller of antiquarian clews thinks it was part of the canal that Nero childishly projected from the mouth of the Tiber

ber to the Julian port; a scheme that was crushed in its infancy.

On every hill, in every vale of the environs, appear the ruins of extensive villas, once embellished with all the elegancies of combined arts, now traced only by half-buried mouldering walls, and some marble fragments, left as it were to vouch for the taste and costliness with which they were constructed. In the last period of the commonwealth, and during the gaudy æra of the Cæsars, almost every person of exalted rank had a house in this country, which the sagacious antiquaries of Puzzuoli point out to you, without doubt or hesitation. One ruin among the rest has a superior claim to our attention, and, in a great measure, pleads our excuse for yielding such easy belief to the suspicious authority that stamps it with a name: Here, we are told, Cicero had his academy, where he penned some of his most admirable productions: It is at least a pleasing illusion to fancy that we are treading ground on which that great man took his solitary walks, and mused on the falling fortunes of Rome, or the most sublime points of morals and metaphysics *.

After many hours spent in a manner most satisfactory to my curiosity, I closed the agreeable tour of the day with a moonlight walk to Puzzuoli. The air was mildly agitated,

* From Pliny's topography it is probable that it stood on a spot covered by the eruption of 1538.

by the wind from the land, which after sunset always succeeds the sea breeze; the waves dashed gently against the ruined edifices that impede their * progress; the reflection of the moon, and some vessels under sail, enlivened the marine prospect, and from the gardens of the vale were wafted the most delicious perfumes.

S E C T I O N VII.

PUZZUOLI † is pleasantly and advantageously situated for trade, but the metropolis absorbs almost every branch of it. In a very remote age, the Cumæans made it their arsenal and dockyard, and to this naval establishment gave the sublime appellation of Dicearchia, or *Just Power*: This name indicates that they pursued, or wished to be thought to pursue, a line of conduct in commercial transactions, which it would be happy for mankind all mari-

* These buildings, which for so many ages have withstood the daily assaults of a boisterous element, owe their durability to the cement with which their parts are united; the principal ingredient is a fine volcanical sand called Puzzolana, that acquires strength and hardness by lying under water; it consists of various metallic, stony, and earthy particles, calcined and triturated in the central furnaces, and is found both in the neighbourhood of Puzzuoli, and in that of Rome.

† Padre Paoli in his *anti chita di Puzzuoli* gives a coin of this town, which I believe to be no more than a very common one of Naples, a little altered and ill-read.—Anciently Puteoli in Latin, *Δικαρχία* in Greek.

time

time powers would adopt. The Romans were well aware of the utility of this port, and took great pains to improve its natural advantages. Nothing remains of their works, but a line of piers, built to break the force of a rolling sea: They are vulgarly called the bridge of Caligula, because that madman is said to have marched in triumph from Puzzuoli to Baia on a bridge; but his was a bridge of boats.

The ruins of its ancient edifices are widely spread along the adjacent hills and shores. An amphitheatre still exists entire in most of its parts, and the temple of Serapis offers many curious subjects of observation; half of its buildings are still buried under the earth thrown upon it by volcanical commotions, or accumulated by the crumbings of the hill; the inclosure is square environed with buildings for priests and baths for votaries; in the centre remains a circular platform, with four flights of steps up to it, vases for fire, a central altar, rings for victims, and other appendages of sacrifice, entire and not displaced; but the columns that upheld its roof have been removed to the new palace of Caserta. Behind this round place of worship, stand three pillars, without capitals, part of the pronaos of a large temple; they are of cipolline marble, and at the middle of their height are full of holes eaten in them by the file-fish *. Various unsatisfactory conjectures have been

* *Pholas dactylus*. Lin.

formed in order to account for these upright shafts being corroded only in that middle part, while the top and bottom were not attacked—The most reasonable appears to be, that when the sea flowed so much higher than it does at present, these columns were half covered with sand, and the upper part being above the level of the water, the fish could only attack the small portion that was immersed in the very shallow water. The present city contains near ten thousand inhabitants, and occupies a small peninsula; the cathedral was a pagan temple, dedicated to the divinities that presided over commerce and navigation.

After examining the antiquities within the town, I rambled up the hills, amidst piles of bricks, which, however ruinous they may be, are all distinguished in the descriptions of Puzzuozuoli by peculiar appellations, and consecrated to Neptune, Diana or some other deity; fortuitous dedications, originating in the caprice of the first antiquaries that accompanied strangers when these fragments became objects of curiosity; the name applied at random by ignorant guides has acquired a sanction by time, and is now repeated as authentic. Among these relics of ancient grandeur none deserve more attention than the Campanian way, paved with lava, and lined on each side with venerable towers, the repositories of the dead, which are richly adorned with stucco in the inside. This road was made in a most solid expensive manner by order of Domitian, and is frequently the subject of encomium in the poems of Statius.

Pursuing the path that leads towards Naples, I arrived at a convent of Capuchin Friars, which commands so fine a prospect, that many painters have chosen it as a station for delineating the bay. Saint Januarius is supposed to have compleated his martyrdom on this spot, by the axe, after facing the wild beasts of the amphitheatre with impunity; he was bishop of Beneventum in the third century, but did not supersede Saint Asprenius in the patronage of Naples till eleven hundred years after his death.

The cistern that contains water for the use of this convent is a basin supported solely by one column; it was thus contrived clear of all contact with the walls of the cellar, from a discovery being made that poisonous vapours transpired through the ground, and contaminated the water in the common reservoirs.

I ascended from hence to the Solfatara, a half-extinct volcano, stiled by the ancients the court of Vulcan; its form is circular; hills of moderate elevation environ it, and, notwithstanding the vicinity of the fire, vines and fruit trees grow very well on the outer declivity. The floor of the crater is white as chalk, composed of various materials which, from the continued action of acids that rise with the steam, have been converted into a marley clay, perhaps their original state. Tiles placed over vent-holes, and serving as retorts, collect condensed alum, sal ammoniac, and sulphur; the vapour is very hot, and discolours paper and metals. The ground quaked and resounded

under the pressure of my feet, and, by laying my ear close to it, I distinguished the bubbling and hissing of boiling water; yet upon part of this crust or floor a wood of chestnut trees flourishes in perfect health, and a variety of shrubs shoot up along the banks, wherever they find level ground to strike root into, and are out of the reach of the blasting smoke. These hidden waters have their issue on the north side of the mountain, where, in a dark valley, a fetid burning stream breaks out and pursues its course among rocks and bushes to the lake of Agnano.

The Solfatara has not emitted flames within the memory of man, but wet weather encreases the quantity of its smoke.

From this point I turned to the king's park at Atruni, which has been formed by running a wall round the edge of a volcanical basin four miles and a half in circumference. The outer slope is very completely cultivated, the inside is filled with a forest of noble timber. In the centre, a large knoll rises crowned with majestic trees, and round it winds a narrow valley in which are several ponds. In cool weather the rides in this deep glen are delightful, but as no breeze can break through such thick groves, or penetrate into so low a situation; the heat in a summer's day is insupportable. A great number of wild boars fatten in this inclosure upon chestnuts and acorns; when these fail, food is provided, and the wild pigs run regularly to be fed: as they grow up they become shy and keep out of sight.

The king sometimes hunts here, but the animals are too fat and cowardly to afford him as good diversion as he meets with in his other royal chases.

As soon as the queen and her attendants are placed out of all danger, behind a palisado on the middle hill, a cordon of huntsmen and peasants set out from the park wall, and, with hounds and loud cries, beat all the wood regularly as they descend; nothing can be more chearful and animating than this prelude. Thus they chase the game before them into the plain, where the king and his nobles take their stand on horse-back armed with long spears; the boars rush down the mountain, and pass in review before the lancemen. In 1452, Alphonfus the First gave a sumptuous entertainment here to the emperor Frederick the Third; thousands of hunters drove the game to be killed before the royal pavillion, while viands of all sorts and streams of wine regaled a crowd of sixty-thousand spectators.

I now passed down to the lake of Agnano, which exhibits trim elegance of landscape, without any of the bold features of wild nature; its waters are unfavourable to fish, being covered in many places with sulphureous slime; all the flax that is gathered in the vicinage of Naples is brought to soak in this pool, under a weight of stones, till it be sufficiently soft for beating; a putrid smell occasioned by its fermentation encreases the natural unwholesomeness of the air; and is often sensibly felt even in the city of Naples; by
order

order of the police no steeped flax can be carried through the streets except in the night time, and even then the effluvia are so strong that I have sometimes been waked by them; the flax produced near the lake is in the highest estimation. These waters are said to bubble incessantly from the fixed air forcing its way through them; but I could discern another cause of this bubbling in the continual leaping up of a large fish or tadpole. This singular creature has two fore legs, a fish's head and tail, and frequently is found full of spawn; their motions are so swift and frequent, that if I had not caught them by putting a net suddenly into the water, I should never have discovered the cause of the bubbles.

On the verge of this lake are the sweating stones of San Germano, much frequented in summer, and the celebrated grotta Del Cane, where a damp arises a little above the ground fatal to any animal, if its organs of respiration be immersed in it; it is usual to try the experiment upon dogs, which, after lying on the floor like a lifeless lump, recover by being thrown into the water.

SECTION VIII.

THE ride from hence towards Naples is through a fertile vale, where lofty poplars, hung with vines, overshadow tillage land, that teems annually with repeated

peated harvests: the scarlet bloom of the pomegranate, glowing amidst the many-tinted greens of the hedges, gives a surprizing life to the confined prospect.

I traversed the grove to the sea-shore, and there taking boat, proceeded through the narrow channel of the Lazaretto to Nisida, an island belonging to the Marquis Petroni, to whom it yields about seven hundred crowns a year. The number of its inhabitants is small, its produce oil. It abounds with rabbits, and large black snakes, which darting across our path as we disturbed their slumbers, kept my bare-footed guide in continual terror—They appeared to me timid and harmless.

The baronial seat, in ruins, stands upon the highest point of the island in a most commanding situation; below is the crater of a small volcano, now a bay of the sea called Porto Pavone, which after it had ceased to send forth flames, probably remained many ages in a state similar to that of the Solfatara; its cover next fell; its banks gave way, and the waves rushed in. Lucan * and Statius complain of the Stygian vapours exhaled from the dark woods

* Tali spiramine Nefis.

Emittit Stygium nebulosis aera faxis

Antraque letiferi rabiem Typhonis anhelant. Luc. Pharf. l. 6.

. Inde malignum

Aera respirat pelago circumflua Nefis. Stat. Sylv. l. 2. c. 2.

. Sylvaque quæ Nefida coronat. Stat. Syl. l. 3. c. i.

of

of Nisida: Cicero's letters † mention that Brutus spent some time here, at baths, which were perhaps of equal efficacy with the more fashionable waters of Baiæ, and, from their retired situation, much more agreeable to a philosophic statesman. The island has suffered great defalcations since that time. The canals cut by Lucullus, and the constant beating of the waves against its rocks, which are of a friable nature, first detached it from the shore, and then gradually reduced it to its present small dimensions; the ridge of rocks whereon the houses for performing quarantine are built, and the shallows that run across the channel, plainly indicate its ancient junction with the continent. On the other side the depth of water is very considerable. From hence I passed over to the point of Posilipo, a lofty cape of perpendicular rocks in which deep caverns are hollowed; the inexhaustible quarries that supply the country with stone for building. The beautiful bay of Naples now began to open upon me as we glided between the promontory, and the shelf of La Gaiola; but still I remained in full view of the noble gulf of Baiæ. Some vaults and walls along the shore have the honour of bearing the name of Virgil's school, in which, as my Cicerone

† I suspect that Cicero meant the baths of Bagnuoli on the continent, near the road to Puzzuoli, and now walled up, which from their proximity to Nisida, might perhaps pass under the same denomination. At present, I believe, there are no baths on the island.

told

told me, that celebrated bard read lectures on poetry. The vulgar imagine him to have been a necromancer, and the prime minister of an emperor; an opinion of ancient date in the country. Abate Aleffandro, who about three hundred years ago wrote an account of his native city, says that Augustus made Virgil lord of Naples. These walls are probably remains of the villa of Lucullus; adjoining to them is a hermitage, and a stone statue of St. Francis, and over the sea hangs a basket, into which passengers and fishermen throw their charity towards the maintenance of the hermit and his lamp.

We moved on gently under a bold variegated shore; grand and almost magic prospects disclosed themselves to the eye in pleasing gradation, as we advanced round each romantic projection of the coast; the ruins of a palace are majestically placed on the water edge. It was begun by Donna Anna Caraffa, wife of the duke of Medina de las Torres, viceroy of Naples in 1638. She was the greatest heiress in the kingdom, but dying without issue, her estates escheated to the crown, and this edifice remained unfinished. Not far from hence begins a paved terrace, secured from the impetuosity of winds and waves by a parapet and immense heaps of broken lava. This work was undertaken by his present catholic majesty, and was intended to be continued as far as a point on the coast where the promontory sinks very low in the middle. It would there have been easy to carry a road, with a moderate ascent, into the
 Foro

Foro di Puzzuoli; his departure put a stop to the project. I have often reflected with admiration on the many works the king of Spain has undertaken and compleated for the convenience of his subjects, or the honour of the nation; few princes will leave behind them so many or such mighty monuments of their taste and spirit; some of these monuments will, no doubt, eternize his memory, and serve as models of grandeur and solidity to posterity, in the same manner as the remains of Roman structures have served us. That the powerful monarch of Spain and the Indies should erect palaces, and arsenals, build stupendous bridges, carry magnificent roads through his realm, and encourage acts of all denominations, does not surprise us; the greatness of his means diminishes our wonder; but what must we think of the œconomy, liberality and perseverance of Charles the Third, who, being as yet sovereign only of one portion of the Spanish monarchy, planned and executed the noble range of buildings at Caserta, the palaces of Capodimonte and Portici, the general hospital, the aqueduct of Caserta, penetrated into the long hidden cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii, and formed the musæum of Portici?

I landed at the church of la Mergellina, founded by James Sannazar: it is not usual for poets to leave wealth enough for such endowments, and monks are seldom beholden to men of wit and genius for their riches and comforts. The bard's body lies behind the altar under a monument very profanely adorned with heathen gods and

fatyrs, in allusion to the subjects of his different poems. To save appearances, the names of David and Judith are written on the pedestals of the statues of Apollo and Minerva. Sannazar ranks high in my esteem as a patriot and as a friend ; men of letters have often been taxed with a versatility of principle which leads them too easily to abandon the unfortunate, and turn their homage towards the rising power : This poet, at least, was above the temptation ; his works breathe a spirit of generous attachment to his benefactors, the ill-fated princes of Arragon ; while Jovius Pontanus the secretary and confidant of Alphonfus and Ferdinand was pronouncing an adulatory harangue before the triumphant conqueror Charles the Eighth, king of France, Sannazar was giving the most undoubted proofs of his gratitude by selling his estate to supply the exigencies of his friend and patron, Frederick the Second ; he became the voluntary companion of his exile ; shared with him the weight of woe, and with persevering tenderness, administered comfort to his desponding soul, 'till death kindly released the wretched prince from sorrows he had not merited. Then Sannazar returned to Naples, and spent the remainder of his life in literary occupations and the pleasures of society, possessed of the love and esteem of all ranks of citizens. His reputation was so well established, that he was chosen by the pope to be the poetical champion of Christianity. The clouds of barbarism, which for many ages had hidden true classical learning from the
view

view of studious men, were but recently dispelled, and the Italians, naturally impetuous in every pursuit that warms their imagination, were so enraptured with its beauties, as to be apparently on the point of relapsing into the religion of their darling authors; legends and miracles of saints were at the eve of being supplanted by classic mythology and poetical prodigies; the veneration for Virgil in particular rose to a pitch that alarmed the clergy, and called upon the sovereign pontiff to step forward and interpose his authority, ere an attempt should be made to metamorphose the vicar of Christ into the flamen of Jupiter. In order, therefore, to draw off the attention of students, and wean the schools from poems of such dangerous tendency, Sannazar and Mark Jerome Vida were commissioned to compose verses upon Christian subjects, in such close imitation of the Mantuan bard that they might in time slide imperceptibly into his place. The latter of these poets produced the *Christias* an epic poem, and Sannazar wrote one upon the incarnation, in which he has copied Virgil's style with great success, but introduced such a set of pagan deities into this holy subject, that one might almost suspect he meant to hold out a lure to the deserters, and propose a kind of coalition; the charms of his poetry checked the progress of the evil, or rather some more powerful motives of interest and safety operated on the minds of the Italian literati; the gods of paganism were again rejected, and the learned continued to profess the faith of Christ; if any

ENVIRONS OF NAPLES.

of them swerved from the right line of belief, it was not to revert to polytheism, but to wander into the wide field of utter incredulity.

Sannazar has been censured for making the sea and its shores the scene of his eclogues; but whoever condemns his piscatory idyls, merely as such, must derive his dislike from his own familiarity with the boisterous gloomy aspect of our northern ocean, and the process of a whale fishery; he would be more indulgent to the author, were he acquainted with the glassy bays of the Neapolitan sea; where a smooth azure surface reflects large masses of superimposing rocks, richly crowned with groves that spread their boughs and roots in that wild majestic style so admirably touched by Salvator Rosa; it was in these bays that Claude and Poussin imbibed their ideas of landscape, and surely scenes that employed the pencil of such masters, cannot be deemed unworthy of a poet's pen. The operations that attend fishing in the Mediterranean are far from unpleasant to the sight or the imagination; and besides, if we discard all poetical glosses, a handsome fisherman, though soiled with scales of fish and salt water, is at least as sweet a swain for a nymph to sigh for as a tender of sheep or goats, animals not remarkable for agreeable odours: Those poems of Sannazar always afford me great pleasure in the perusal, as they trace a most lively description of nature, without running into the threadbare similes and metaphors, with
which

which all bucolic poetry has been patched up since the days of Theocritus.

The terrace of Sannazar's church is the best point for taking a comprehensive view of Naples, on the side of Chiaia; a range of showy houses, above a mile in length, follows the semicircular form of the bay, and terminates in the buildings that crown the bold rocks of Pizzofalcone, and in the clustered towers of the Castel dell' Uovo. The ridge of hills that backs this suburb is beautifully chequered with houses and spreading pines, and the line of its horizon happily broken by cypresses and villas of various architecture; flat roofs, battlements and porticos have a much more agreeable effect than our northern habitations encumbered with tiles and chimneys. Vesuvius peeps over the promontory, and marks the situation of the farther bay. No country I ever visited exhibits so rich and gay a prospect, for although Genoa displays a grand picture of sea, shipping and palaces, its buildings are too much squeezed together and the dark naked rocks behind them press too closely upon the fore-ground. The quay of Bordeaux is regular and well-built, and the Garonne is a noble river, but, the country being quite flat, something is wanting to bring the picture forward. The Palazzata of Messina, though unfinished, presents a most majestic front, the walk before it is spacious, the port nobly extensive, but the background is too rugged, and wants that elegance of slope, that harmony, that fine wavy outline so pleasingly drawn by the

Neapolitan hills. As I know Constantinople only through the fallacious medium of paintings, I cannot bring it into comparison.

My next station was at the church of Piedigrotta, famous for an image of the Madonna, whither on the 8th of September, the king comes in solemn procession escorted by his whole court, and almost every inhabitant of Naples and its environs. The royal galleys are drawn up near the shore, and salute the pomp as it passes. In the late reign a Turkish ambassador was much struck with the magnificence and solemnity of this ceremony, 'till chance directing his eyes to the string of ladies of the bedchamber that followed the queen, he could not refrain from expressing his astonishment that so young and rich a monarch should keep so ill-composed a haram.

Piedigrotta, and indeed the whole suburb of Chiaia, owe their prosperity to the ingenuity of the Jesuits, who perceiving the delight Don Pedro de Toledo took in this pleasant situation, and being aware of the advantages their society would reap from his protection, brought to light an old picture, which they speedily found out to be miraculous; votaries in this country are soon assembled, and therefore Piedigrotta became almost in an instant a sanctuary of high repute. The viceroy contributed largely to its embellishment; the nobility mimicked their chief; Chiaia became a fashionable residence; buildings sprang up along the strand,

strand, as if by enchantment, and in the course of a few years this noble suburb was formed and inhabited.

Here I turned off to the left, along the Puzzuoli road, and came to the grotto that pierces through the promontory of Posilipo, in a direct but ascending line from east to west; it is cut in the tufo stone, is arched, and receives light from the two mouths, and some diagonal apertures in the roof; it is eighty-nine feet high in the most elevated part, not rising in the lowest above twenty-four; in length exactly two thousand four hundred and fourteen feet; in breadth twenty-two. The dust is here intolerable* in summer, and the scantiness of light at all times distressing; for that which is admitted through the opening above-mentioned, and the feeble glimmerings of a lamp burning before a picture in the middle, are no security against the danger of being run over, crushed against the wall, or at least hurt by the faggots, which asses are continually bringing from the woods. I never could accustom myself perfectly to this subterraneous road, but with hasty steps sought to leave it as the seat of noise, gloom, dust, and unwholesome damps: at the same time wondering how passengers could venture into such a place at all hours, singly or in company, without any guard to prevent assaults, or sufficient light to detect a lurking assassin—Were a similar

* This nuisance is increased every time the king passes through, as the road is then strewed with a fresh covering of sand.

thorough-

thoroughfare necessary near any other capital, it would require the constant exertion of the magistracy to preserve the lives and fortunes of the inhabitants; near London none but a madman would venture into it. It is certainly a matter of surprize to find this security in a country so ill provided with officers of police; it reflects honour upon the national character, and indeed it behoves me to give testimony in its favour, as I never met with an insult, nor saw any reason to expect one during my long abode among the Neapolitans, or in my innumerable rides and walks through many parts of the kingdom.

Opinions vary concerning the first openers of the grotto: This kind of rocky substance is perforated with so much ease, and the custom of carrying on subterraneous galleries seems to have prevailed at so very early a period of society, that some authors have ascribed the work to the giants or the Cimmerians, who were wont to make caves their place of residence, as well as the repository of their plunder. Others assert it to have been done by Cocceius, an architect of the Augustan age.* From Seneca's expressions, complaining

* It arises from a misconception of a passage in Strabo. "τῇ Κοκκαίῃ τῇ παλαιᾷ διορύχῃ ἐκείνῃ τε καὶ ἐπὶ νέαν πόλιν ἐκ Δικαρχείας ἐπὶ ταῖς Βαίαις. Cocceius who made that passage, and another through the *New Town* from Puzzuoli to Baiæ." This grotto of Cocceius probably ran through the hill above Nero's baths. Strabo mentions the grotto of Posilipo, without saying a word of Cocceius, and also informs us there was a new town near Baiæ. The similitude of the words Νέαν πόλιν and Νεάπολιν, has caused it to be confounded with Naples.

of its inconveniences, we gather that it was then open only for foot passengers; Alphonfus the First widened it for carriages, and fince his reign it has been confiderably heightened and levelled.

Above the eastern entrance, on the very brink of a precipice, a very ruinous vaulted building is fhewn as the tomb of Virgil; but very inconclufive are the arguments brought to prove that his afhes were depofited in this fepulchre. The bay-tree is fo common a plant in the vineyards and gardens of Naples, that the circumftance of its growing upon the roof can add but little weight to the opinion.

Having walked through the grotto I followed the left-hand path, and gained the fummit of Pofilipo by a rugged and precipitate afcent; I wandered with great fatisfaction along the heights, enjoying alternate views of the Baian and Neapolitan bays. The airinefs and retirednefs of this ridge of fertile hills well entitle it to its Greek denomination of *grief-appeafing*.* At the Villa Mazza are the remains of Pollio's fiff-ponds, fo often mentioned in the works of ancient writers; the expence he was at in embelliffing them; the extravagant paffion he had for his fiff, which by care and feeding grew to a remarkable fize; the cruel food with which he fupplied them, and the rebuke he met with from Auguftus, in whofe prefence he had ordered a

* Πανσιλυπος.

slave to be thrown into the pond for a trivial offence, are circumstances that have rendered these reservoirs famous.

Continuing my walk towards the north, through a mountainous woody country, I arrived at length at the convent of the Camaldoli where my horses met me. This is the highest situation among the mountains that shelter the Neapolitan bays on the northern side. Scarce any part of the country or gulf is hidden from this elevated point; the sea view is sublime; the land one most beautiful; the woodlands and cultivated grounds are intermingled in a most pleasing variety. Towards the north-west lies a very celebrated track of country called the Quarto, formerly known by the appellation of Campus Leborinus. From its astonishing fertility it became famous, and by some authors is thought to have given the name of Terra di Lavoro to the province of Campania.

I returned through forests of chefnut trees, by a romantic path bordered with many forts of shrubs and flowers, sometimes confined between broken cliffs and woody hills, sometimes winding over high ridges open to a noble range of prospect. In this pleasing vicissitude of objects I continued my journey 'till I fell in with the road that leads along Posilipo to the upper part of Naples. Houses and vineyards now obstructed my view 'till I reached the glacis of the castle of Saint Elmo, where a wonderful scene suddenly displayed itself. The whole city and suburbs, with every object that hitherto had partially engaged my

2

attention,

attention, were now brought under my inspection in one collective picture.

S E C T I O N IX.

AS from an advanced post, I here reconnoitred all the quarters of Naples, and formed an exact idea of its general outline as well as its particular situations. The sea before it is scalloped into two semi-circles divided by a promontory, and imitating the Arabic figure of three. The promontory runs out from the hill of Saint Elmo, sinking gradually towards the Castel dell' Uovo with a gentle curve. The eastern bay does not approach so near to the hills as that of Chiaia, but leaves a capacious vale for the city and suburbs, which extend very irregularly over the hills, and run up several narrow dales. On this account it is difficult to obtain the just dimensions of Naples. King Roger caused it to be measured, and found it to be two miles and six furlongs in circumference, but it was then only upon a footing with many other cities of his dominions, and not the metropolis. Another measurement was taken in 1500, which amounted to nine miles in circumference. Its walls are no longer of any real defence, and of course the safety of Naples depends upon the force of its armies. To repel hostile attempts by sea, which, from its situation, maritime powers might be tempted to

make, it has to the west the Castel dell' Uovo, a confused pile of ancient buildings, and some modern batteries; the rock this fortress stands upon was originally called Megara, then Lucullanum, and must have been considered early as a place of strength, for Romulus Augustulus, the last Roman emperor of the west, was shut up here in 475. His father, Orestes, had invested him with the imperial purple, but Odoacer, king of the Heruli, defeated his army, and put an end to the empire. Hither also the son of king Manfred was transferred from Puglia, and lingered out a tedious life of misery. Along the line of the shore towards the east are some batteries on the points of land, the bastions of the arsenal, and above it the lofty wall of the Castel Nuovo erected by Charles the First. Its inner gate is decorated with a triumphal arch raised in honour of Alphonfus the Magnificent, a work of great effect, though not perfectly correct in taste and architecture. This fortress has usually been the refuge of the sovereigns and viceroys in all civil wars and tumults, and for that reason they have long fixed their residence near its walls. A block-house and batteries defend the mouth of the harbour, and at the eastern extremity of the town is the Torrione del Carmine, better known by the figure it made in the rebellion of 1647, than by its extent or military strength. The castle of Saint Elmo, where I stood to view the city, commands Naples in every direction, and is in reality calculated rather to annoy and awe the citizens, than to defend them from foreign

foreign invaders. King Robert first saw the propriety of fortifying this post, and the emperor Charles the Fifth reduced the old works to a regular pentagonal form.

The dockyard and magazines for the gallies are spacious; the harbour where ships of war and merchantmen lie rather too confined: it is entirely the work of art, being formed by the projection of a crooked mole first laid by Charles the Second, and after many additions completed by the present king of Spain. A lofty pharos points out the entrance of the harbour in the night, but as the hill behind rises very high, these lights are easily confounded with those of the town.

Naples contains some fine squares and large streets; of the former the Largo Castello and Spirito Santo are the most extensive. Toledo is the principal among the latter, inferior to few in Europe, for length and buildings. In the heart of the city the streets are narrow, and, on account of the great elevation of the houses, gloomy and close; they are paved with square stones of dark coloured lava, dug out of quarries, or rather stagnated torrents formerly vomited by Vesuvius or the Solfatara. It is said that this matter must be many centuries old ere it acquire a sufficient degree of hardness for the purpose of paving; but I am inclined to believe it very soon becomes as compact as it ever will be: paving stones are contracted for at two carlini a piece, and, in great thoroughfares, must be renewed in less than three years.

All parts of Naples are copiously supplied with water
by

by an ancient aqueduct, which has more than once overbalanced its services, by affording a passage for besiegers to enter the city: through it Belisarius introduced soldiers that surpris'd the Gothic garrison; Alphonfus the First repeated the stratagem with success. Many fountains retail the supply, some few of which are decorated in a good style.

The Neapolitan architects are too lavish of ornament, and too frequently run into a false and barbarous taste: the edifices of Rome have in general more grandeur and chastity of style, except those which have been executed upon the plans of Borromini and his scholars; they indeed exceed in wanton violation of propriety all the flights of Gothic architecture. Most of the churches of Naples are crowned with cupolas; a few slender steeples break the line, and add variety to the picture, but there is a want of some venerable pile to tower above the rest; the cathedral is not sufficiently pre-eminent. I scarce know a church without some good paintings, but very few in which the architect has shewn a pure noble taste. Two columns of a temple dedicated to the Dioscuri and the city of Naples, are the only remarkable monuments of ancient architecture remaining. The portico to which they belonged was overturned by an earthquake in 1688; they stand before the door of a church, consecrated to St. Peter and Paul; this temple was erected by Tiberius Julius Tarsus, and Pelago the freedman of Augustus; the apostles, who were united in their mission

mission and martyrdom, have been substituted for the twin brothers Castor and Pollux. Santa Chiara, a rich monastery of noble dames, founded by king Robert, and the place of sepulture for the royal family, has a church repaired and painted by Conca in so gay and airy a style, that it exhibits more of the elegance of a ball-room than of the awful solemnity of a temple. The chancel of Saint Philip Neri is the best sample of ecclesiastical architecture in Naples; large columns of antique granite divide it from the isles in a most majestic manner, though some of the usual proportions are not critically observed. The Carthusian convent of Saint Martin, adjoining to the castle of Saint. Elmo is, I believe, the best situated monastery in Europe; every thing appertaining to it corresponds with the sublimity of the view; immense ranges of buildings, a stately church, superb halls, and a noble collection of pictures. To support this great establishment, and a large family of ascetic members, that neither beg nor earn their livelihood, the society enjoys a most princely income; the overplus of it is employed in the pernicious charity of feeding beggars, and the rational one of portioning out the female relations of the monks; it is reported, that government intends shortly to take upon itself the charge of appropriating this balance. The relics of St. Januarius form the principal boast of the cathedral. The Carmine calls to mind the bloody catastrophe of those royal youths Conradine and Frederick of Austria, butchered before its door; whenever I traversed that square,
my

my heart yearned at the idea of their premature fate, and at the deep distress of Conradine's mother, who, landing on the beach with her son's ransom, found only a lifeless trunk to redeem from the fangs of his barbarous conqueror. In the cloyster of the Carmine, Massaniello was murdered by the companions of his revolt, a victim to his want of conduct.

The sacred edifices of Naples abound with sepulchral monuments of distinguished personages; the chapel of the San Severo family exhibits many very extraordinary statues; the art with which the sculptor has surmounted the difficulty of representing human bodies wrapped up in cloths or entangled in the meshes of a net is truly wonderful; but the piece of statuary which appeared in my eyes to possess the most real merit, is a Christ in the shroud, by San Martino, a living Neapolitan artist; undoubtedly a fine performance.

The dwellings of the nobility are grand. In 1597, when Morison travelled, there was no glass in any windows of Naples, nor is it above forty years since, the use of glass became common. While the Neapolitans languished under the oppressive and almost hostile government of a viceroy, they seem to have felt little for the honour of their country; the comforts of life were imperfectly known, and all emulation appeared dead among them; the revival of elegant arts, the introduction of numberless improvements in public and private life, the adorning of the city, and a more convenient mode of furnishing their dwellings, all date from the æra of the conquest

quest of Naples by Don Carlos—A sovereign of their own then came to reside among them, they felt once more that they were a nation, and had a glory and interests worth consulting.

The royal palace begun in 1600 by the count of Lemos, after the design of Fontana, presents a very handsome front, a staircase in the noblest proportions, and apartments suitable to the rank of the inhabitants; these rooms have, however, lost some of their splendour, by the removal of the Farnesian collection of pictures; those valuable paintings are now shewn at Capodimonte, a palace erected upon the hills to the north of the city by the king of Spain, but left unfinished, from the difficulty of procuring water; the ground upon which it stands is undermined in various and numberless directions; these caverns were either left in the original formation of the hill, and chiselled into shape by the hand of man, or were quarries gradually extended as the materials were wanted for building; though we are not certain in what manner they were excavated, we know that they long served both heathens and christians as repositories of the dead; they surpass the catacombs of Rome in extent, but for many ages have seldom been used for funeral purposes; similar vaults under the churches in the town, being more at hand, are now the usual places of burial. It is a custom here, on All Souls day, to throw open the charnel-houses, lighted up with torches, and decked out with all the flowery pageantry of May-day;

crowds follow crowds through these vaults to behold the coffins, nay the bodies of their friends and relations; the floors are divided into beds, like a garden, and under these heaps of earth the corpses are laid in regular succession; the place is perfectly dry, for the soil is rather a pounded stone than earth, and parches up the flesh compleatly in a twelvemonth; when that period is elapsed, the body is taken up, drest in a religious habit, and fixed like a statue in a niche; many retain a horrid resemblance to what they were when animated, and some shew strong marks of agony in their distorted features. They are much better preserved than the mummies of Toulouse, which pass for such singular curiosities.

The Albergo de Poveri, intended as a refuge for the poor from all parts of the kingdom, is an extensive hospital, but, like most works planned upon a scale that strains the sinews of the public revenue, remains unfinished.

The theatre of San Carlo is one of the most capacious in the world, and when illuminated, the most magnificent.

The Studii is a showy edifice decorated with ancient statues brought from Cuma. There is a plan under consideration at court, for removing the contents of the musæum hither from Portici, in order to place that inestimable collection at a greater distance from Vesuvius; the day may otherwise come when another stream of fire shall bury these treasures again for ages. But is Naples itself a place of security? Its safety depends upon the wind that blows during an ir-
ruption;

ruption; if that should happen to direct the ashes to the north-west, Naples would be exposed to the fate of Pompeii; besides, its foundations rest on hollow ground, and earthquakes may destroy the pillars that support them; were I admitted to council on the occasion, I should prefer a removal to Caserta, but think it still more adviseable to leave the antiquities where they are. They would suffer so much damage and derangement in the package, and remain for so many years unopened and unclassified, that the present generation of learned and curious persons would probably never be gratified with a sight of them.

S E C T I O N X.

THE ancient palace of the sovereigns, near the Capuan gate, is now occupied by the courts of law, and its cellars transformed into dungeons for malefactors. One room is set apart for the drawing of the lottery, an institution of great emolument to the king, but of still more essential detriment to the morals and fortunes of his subjects; necessity is the plea for establishing so pernicious an allurements to gambling, because the lotteries set up at Genoa and elsewhere would infallibly draw a great deal of money out of the country, if no such thing existed at Naples; and if the Neapolitans now are dupes, at least their own exchequer benefits by their folly. But this is fallacious

reasoning; for the daily labourer, the artisan and the menial servant could not squander away their pittance at a lottery office out of the kingdom; the distance and absence of the temptation from their eyes would eradicate the vice. As things now stand, the fury with which they pursue the game is inconceivable to every one who is not acquainted with their impetuosity of character; cloaths, furniture, victuals, are pawned, robberies committed, and trusts betrayed, in order to raise a stake for the lotto, which, next to St. Gennaro, excites the most tempestuous agitations in the soul of a Lazzarone; on a day of drawing, the crowd and tumult in the hall are prodigious; ragged fellows are seen pressing up to the table, in hopes of being allowed to shake the precious box that contains the ninety fatal numbers. As the five winning lots come up, it is highly entertaining to observe the fierce expressions of joy or disappointment that strain or relax the features of each eager face, according as the number tallies with the combinations upon which the owner has betted his money; Hogarth should have visited Naples, to have beheld the very sublime of caricature; in our flegmatic countenances he saw only feeble specimens and demi characters.

The administration of criminal justice is entrusted to the court of Vicaria, originally instituted by Charles duke of Calabria, who acted as regent during the imprisonment of his father Charles the Second. Its chief judge is always a nobleman of high rank; this important office is now held
by

by the duke of St. Nicolo, a person of great learning and acquirements. He sits as umpire in all disputes between the nobles and the plebeians, compromises family quarrels, and adjusts differences; when he acts in his judicial capacity, he calls in the assistance of his assessors, men learned in the law.

In a former part of this work I passed some strictures upon the mode of administering justice at Naples, and pointed out the necessity of government's taking the matter into serious consideration. Many and various are the causes which have co-operated in perplexing judicial proceedings, in corrupting the springs of justice, and in weakening the legal powers that ought to enforce due observation of the laws, and punish those that transgress them: magistrates deprived of sufficient authority for the support of their jurisdiction are soon brought to think it absurd to adhere strictly to their duty, and then self interest steps in with a legion of temptations and evil consequences. The great and more obvious causes of this vice are to be discovered in the numberless revolutions that have disturbed the constitution of the realm, in the struggles between the crown and its great vassals, in the infirm administration of viceroys, and in the neglect with which the Spanish monarchs, harrassed with difficulties at home, treated their distant possessions. Other causes, no less efficient, though less apparent, may be added, such as conflicts of jurisdiction, privileges, and exemptions originating in ancient grants or usurpations, and

and a mixture of laws of different conquerors. It is a very difficult and arduous task, even for a despotic prince to eradicate such inveterate abuses in a summary hasty manner, and to raise up suddenly a more perfect system of judicature for people accustomed, through a long line of generations, to laws diametrically contrary to the new regulations; the very inconveniences of the old code are consecrated by time and habit. The debased slaves hug the chain that galls them, and will long curse the patriotic hand that breaks their fetters. A gradual reform alone is to be recommended, and I make no doubt but it has been determined upon, and will be carried into execution with all proper dispatch, by the royal branch of Bourbon now firmly settled on the throne of the two Sicilies. The progress of such a change must of course be slow, and its effects long unobserved; the hand that performs the cure must be light and cautious, and no amputation made, without preparing a healing ointment to apply to the wound before it can rankle.

Naples is divided, as to its municipal policy, into six *feggii* or wards, five of which are governed by a committee of nobles; the last belongs exclusively to the plebeians, who are distributed into twenty-nine *ottine* or quarters, under the direction of an *eletto* or mayor with his assistants. These wards meet in open porticos that alternately enjoy the honour of being the theatre, whereon the liquefaction of Saint Januarius's blood is exhibited.

These

These seggii have succeeded to the phratriæ into which Naples was divided in very ancient times, while governed by its own Greek laws. A phratia consisted of thirty families, each of which had its temple or parochial place of worship. A seggio was originally composed of municipal magistrates only, who assembled to settle the proportion each district was to bear of the public taxes; but when the general parliaments of the nation were suffered to fall into disuse,* greater influence was insensibly imparted to the seggii by the kings, and very essential privileges and powers conferred upon their members. These prerogatives seem to have been intended as a decoy to draw the fierce vassal out of his den, and soften his independent spirit in the gentle atmosphere of courts and cities. The most powerful barons found it expedient to have their names enrolled in a seggio, not to be excluded from a vote in the distribution and administration of the general imposts; but many great families long declined these advantages, some were not aggregated before this century, and others have never yet been admitted.

Before the civil wars had ruined and extinguished so many puissant families of the ancient baronage, there was not in the seggi above seventeen members that possessed castles and

* Parliaments or general assemblies of feudatories and free burghers have not been held since the beginning of the administration of the Marquis Tanucci. The king has therefore no free gifts, but imposes what taxes and duties he chooses.

manors, and those were not of any great importance. In the reign of Ladislaus twenty-two great vassals of the crown were received. Notwithstanding the powers vested in the feudatories in capite by grant or abuse, Giannone thinks they did not arrogate to themselves the full exercise of legal jurisdiction in their fiefs 'till the reign of king Robert.

Naples has neither watchmen nor lamps; but of late years darkness has been dispelled in many streets by the piety of Father Rocco, a Dominican friar, who rules the mob with absolute controul; he persuades them to subscribe oil for lamps to burn before images, which he fixes up in the most convenient places, and thus turns their devotion to public account; this extraordinary man, whose manners are clownish, and address adapted to the people he governs, carries all before him with rude energy, beats the quarrelsome into peace, strips the shops and distributes their victuals among the poor; decides petty law-suits, and suffers no appeal to lie from his sentence. The court understands his importance, and has often experienced the good effects of his mediation; though of late years an attention to the plentiful supply of cheap provisions, and a strong garrison, have kept the populace quiet, to a degree unknown in former times, yet particular circumstances may yet render a Neapolitan mob formidable to government. During a late eruption of Vesuvius, the people took offence at the new theatre being more frequented than the churches,
and

and assembled in great numbers to drive the nobility from the opera; they snatched the flambeaux from the footmen, and were proceeding tumultuously to the cathedral to fetch the head of San Gennaro, and oppose its miraculous influence to the threats of the blazing volcano: this would undoubtedly have ended in a very serious sedition, if father Rocco had not stepped forth, and after reproaching them bitterly with the affront they were about to put upon the saint by attending his relicks with torches taken from mercenary hands, ordered them all to go home and provide themselves with wax tapers; the crowd dispersed, and proper measures were taken to prevent its gathering again.

The reader must not be surprized to hear that torches should be esteemed so necessary an appendage to piety, for at Naples nothing is done in religious matters without lights of some sort. The anniversary of every saint is celebrated with fireworks, bonfires or illuminations, and devotion in this country leads people into great expence. I have been told by a person very conversant in calculations, that the Neapolitan clergy receives as much annually for prayers said at the particular request of the devout, as the king's household costs in the same space of time. The wax and oil consumed in lamps and candles for altars and processions would, if exported, form a very beneficial article of commerce.

In funeral ceremonies, it is usual to hire clergymen called Fratanzari, who having no patrimony, earn as

much by their fees on these occasions as pays for their ordination ; but it is very common for them to dress up the vagabonds of the streets in their cloaths, and send them to sing and pray in their stead ; these fellows are always attended by a friend who holds a paper bag into which they make the taper siveal and waste as much as possible. At the burial of an archbishop of Naples, four hundred friars attended with wax-lights, but some thieves let loose a mad ox among them, and in the confusion ran away with the candles. At another great funeral, a gang of rogues disguised themselves like clerks and sacristans, and demanded from each assistant his taper, which they extinguished, and carried off with the utmost hypocritical composure.

SECTION XI.

FROM the slight mention made of Naples by ancient writers, we may infer that its inhabitants long lived in obscure tranquillity, a happy though not a glorious situation ; for where no complaints are made, no disturbances heard of, peace and abundance may be supposed to reign—Great misfortunes as often as great successes raise nations to a rank in history that entitles them to the notice of posterity ; victory and dominion did not, perhaps, procure to the Roman people a larger share of felicity.

city than they would have tasted, had they remained the free but undistinguished possessors of their original confined territory ; in that case their name would not have been pre-eminent in the history of the great revolutions of the world ; but their blood would not have flowed in proscriptions, nor would their liberties have been trampled upon by emperors the most worthless of mankind. It is far from my intention to depreciate the value of generous ambition, and active spirit ; on the contrary, I doubt whether any public prosperity can be lasting without military exertions : philosophical content and moderation may ensure to private men an uncommon proportion of that imperfect sum of happiness, which alone is within our contracted reach, but if they predominate long in national councils, will inevitably lull the state into pernicious apathy ; every political body is so surrounded with rivals and enemies, and such is the necessity of motion in human affairs, that if they do not advance, they must retrograde. A people of philosophers, if such a one could be formed, must either sink rapidly into vicious indolence, ending in confusion and slavery, or very soon be reinvolved in the busy vortex of enterprize, which alone can preserve it from corruption.

Naples is fabled to owe its foundation to a syren, and idleness, that worst of syrens, * seems to have spread an influence over this favourite city, which no length of time

* *Improba firen desidia.*—HOR.

has been able to dispel ; it has never lost the soft voluptuous character, which it may be said to have received from Parthenope its supernatural foundress. The Cumæans formed a settlement in this bay about three hundred years after the Trojan war, and called it their New Town, Neapolis ; Livy is the only author that makes mention of an old one adjoining to it, which he calls Palepolis ; it is a matter of very little importance to contest, whether the Cumæans erected a new city entirely from the foundations, at a small distance from the ancient city of the Syren, or occupied the old tenements ; in either case the former name was lost.* Naples thus happily situated, grew rich and populous.†

* The situation of Parthenope or Palepolis, was in all probability near Capodi Monte, as there are proofs of the sea's having retired considerably since that time.

† Numi Neapolitani.

Ex Argent.

1. Caput muliebre diadematum inter 4. Delphinos—Minotaurus à super-
volitante victoriâ coronatus. ΝΕΑΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ.

2. Cap. id. absque delph.

3. Cap. id. cum icunculâ ad occiput ΑΡΤΕΜΙΣ—Minot. a vict. cor.
ΝΕΑΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ.

Ex Ære.

1. Caput imberbe laureatum.—Lyra et fistrum ΝΕΑΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ.

2. Cap. imb. laur. ΝΕΑΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ.—Minotaurus gradiens à vict.
superv. cor.

3. Cap. imb. laur.—Tripus ΝΕΑΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ.

4. Cap. idem. ΝΕΑΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ.—Anterior pars Minotauri superstante
delphino.

5. Cap. Dianæ cum phœdrâ ad humeros—Cornucopiæ ΝΕΑΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ.

It

It was during a short space of time the seat of war in the days of Hannibal, and suffered some molestation during the servile war, but at almost all other periods enjoyed the most profound peace, under the powerful dominion of Rome. As its soft citizens could give no umbrage to those jealous conquerors, Naples was suffered to enjoy a shadow of liberty, live under its own municipal laws, worship its peculiar deities, and retain its original rites and language. This indulgence was purchased by a quota of ships to be furnished when demanded, a tribute that could not be oppressive to a maritime state. Thus maintained in peace and security, Naples became the center of polite arts, the seat of refined taste and luxury, and a favourite residence of the rich and voluptuous citizens of Rome. The emperors partook of the fashionable partiality for its climate, and gave it many substantial marks of their predilection. But the rougher policy of Vespasian altered its constitution, and made it a Roman colony, which may have been a cause of animating its natural effeminacy with some degree of military spirit; I find more warlike symptoms among the Neapolitans after this period than they had ever discovered before. Upon the division of the empire, Naples was assigned to the eastern monarch, and being connected with Greece by language and manners, long preserved its allegiance to that crown under a kind of vassalage, or subordinate republican government; it appeared rather as a more independent state after the Exarch Longinus

ginus had placed a duke at its head; a regular succession is to be traced of these magistrates, who were sometimes despotic princes, at other periods subject to the control of the municipal body. This city suffered severely from the Saracens, who invaded Italy towards the opening of the ninth century, for such havock was made of its fighting men, that the duke was compelled to publish an invitation throughout the neighbouring states offering wives and houses to any adventurers that would settle in the town. King Roger, after the reduction of every other place that now belongs to the kingdom of Naples, was voluntarily admitted here, and the ducal government abolished; a cotemporary writer describes Naples as large and strong, defended on one side by the sea, and on the other by lofty walls, so as to be deemed impregnable by assault; these bulwarks were much damaged by the emperor Henry the Sixth, and levelled to the ground by his grandson Conrad, who dismantled the city on account of its adhering to the papal party. Frederick the Second had shewn it more favour; conscious of its advantages and importance, he intended to raise it to the dignity of a capital, and, in order to render it more worthy of the distinction, transferred the university of Bologna hither, embellished the city with new buildings and repaired the old ones; the troubles which agitated every part of his reign, and perplexed all his measures, prevented him from completing his plan. Charles the First brought it to perfection, by fixing here his royal residence and the
I tribunals

tribunals of justice; each succeeding prince added something, and Naples soon came to vie with the first cities in Europe for beauty, wealth and numbers; but its military strength and safety decreased as its boundaries were extended; ill provided with fortifications and defenders, it usually threw open its gates and received with submission whatever commander victory had crowned in the field of battle. Some exceptions are to be made, and some generals, after defeating their enemy have met with a repulse before its walls. The viceroyalty of Moncada exhibited in 1528 a remarkable instance in the destruction of the whole French army, which under Lautrec had long and closely besieged Naples. Tumults were frequent, during the administration of viceroys, arising from continual exactions, increasing taxes, scarcity of provisions and a weak government; The grand insurrection under Massaniello wore a more dismal complexion than all the preceding disturbances, and threatened the dismembering of this valuable branch of the Spanish monarchy. Since that period, the annals of this city are barren of memorable events.

From the few hints dropped by the classic authors, we collect that the ancient Neapolitans were a race of Epicureans, of a soft indolent turn, averse to martial exercises, passionately fond of theatrical amusements and music, expert in all the refined arts that administer to the caprices of luxury, extravagant in their expressions and gestures, credulous

dulous, and dupes to superstitions of various sorts. If we make allowance for a quantity of northern blood which has joined the original Grecian stream by intermarriages with a medley of conquering nations, and has imparted a roughness not yet worn off by the mildness of the climate, we shall find the present citizens of Naples very like the former inhabitants of their city.

Provisions are here plentiful and cheap, therefore the lower class of people work but little; their delight is to bask in the sun and to do nothing. Persons of a middle rank pass too much of their time in coffee-houses, and places of public resort; few pursue their callings with the zeal and activity we are wont to meet with in the professional men of colder countries. Gluttony is a much more predominant vice than ebriety, of which instances are extremely rare. In the female sex, the passion for finery is almost superior to all others, and, notwithstanding any effect the genial warmth of the climate may have on the constitution of a Neapolitan woman, I doubt whether she would not nine times out of ten prefer a present to a lover; yet I apprehend chastity is not the characteristic virtue of this place more than it is of any other populous metropolis; that furious jealousy for which the nation was so remarkable some generations ago, is almost eradicated; the breach of the conjugal vow sometimes occasions quarrels and assassinations among people of an inferior station, but the case is rare, and

and rivalry between lovers is more frequently productive of such scenes.

Education was not heretofore sufficiently attended to, and youthful minds, naturally warm and susceptible of every impression, were unfortunately left too much without proper guides to direct them in the paths of renown and useful learning. Few noblemen suffered their children to frequent public schools, and, under the paternal roof, young people in this soft climate are but too prone to habits of indolence and effeminacy, which grow inveterate with age. But it is probable the pains and expence government has been at in establishing public seminaries upon a proper and respectable footing, the patriotic efforts of the new Academy of Sciences and Belles Lettres, and the fashion which begins to prevail among the nobility of visiting foreign countries, will speedily work the happiest effects in the improvement of a people that wants nothing but activity and a sense of its own faculties to figure among the most conspicuous nations in Christendom.

The musical school of Naples is worthy of its ancient reputation, and Nero might still be proud of the applause of a Neapolitan audience.

* Cicero in giving an account to Marius of the sports exhibited before the Roman people, at the opening of

* Præsertim cum Oſcos ludos vel in ſenatu noſtro ſpectare poſſis.

Ep. ad famil. lib. 7, ep. 1.

Pompey's theatre, mentions the Oscan farces, but adds that he need not regret being absent during the representation, as they were very bad, and he was already well acquainted with their nature, more especially as he might see similar scenes acted whenever he pleased in the Senate-house of their native city Arpinum*; no doubt every debate was there attended with expressive and ludicrous gesticulations. In this art the modern Neapolitans are not inferior to their forefathers; though loud and loquacious by nature, they can, when they choose, express their thoughts by signs, shrugs and nods; they can even hold a conversation by the simple motions of their eyes, with a degree of acuteness scarce to be credited. They have naturally a great fund of what we call humour, and heighten it with affected clownishness and rudeness of language; their jokes are rather coarse, and their satire, though well calculated for exciting laughter, has little of that keen penetrating slyness which points the sarcasms of the more northern Italians.

Some malefactors were lately executed at Naples, three of whom, being strangers and unknown, were left all night on the gibbet; next morning they were found with hats and long periwigs on their heads, and pipes of tobacco in their mouths.

* Now Arpino, a town in the north-east corner of Terra di Lavoro, on the confines of the ecclesiastical state.

I once saw a fire-work played off before a church on the festival of the patron, in which Punchinello was represented in pasteboard administering a clyster to Scaramouche; at a signal given the instrument took fire, and both apothecary and patient blew up in a volley of crackers.

The ancient Neapolitans were more tenacious of their superstitions, and adhered to paganism longer than any other Italians. The orders of Constantine for the destruction of heathen temples and idols were disobeyed or eluded at Naples with a degree of obstinacy that excited the admiration of Symmachus. This writer was strongly bigotted to the ancient faith, and therefore lavish of his encomiums on this most religious city. So late as the sixth century, the history of St. Benedict mentions several temples yet remaining in the kingdom, where heathen rites were performed, notwithstanding the almost universal prevalence of Christianity, and the severity of the imperial edicts.

It must be acknowledged that the Neapolitans of the present time are too apt to indulge notions that may justly be taxed with superstition, and that some practices in their religious worship appear extravagant and improper to Roman catholics of other countries; but such is the violence of their passions and the enthusiasm of their character, that it is but natural they should be easily seduced beyond the bounds of sober reason in matters of mystery and metaphysics. They balance this account by the vigorous and

successful resistance they have made against every attempt to introduce the inquisition among them*. This tribunal is certainly unnecessary here, with regard to infidels and heretics, for none exist in the country; witches are, I believe, as rare here as elsewhere, and in that line also the holy office is not wanted: perhaps in some other of its departments, it might find victims enough to burn. In the reign of Philip the Second the reformed doctrines had penetrated into there alm, and the number of profelytes were increasing very rapidly, when their progress was checked by the furious zeal of a baron of the house of Spinelli, who exterminated with fire and sword all his vassals that had embraced the new mode of worship, and by this bloody example retained the remainder in the Roman communion: two men were burnt at Naples, notwithstanding a tumult of the people, who dreaded the introduction of the inquisition, and the protestant religion has never had any partisans since among the Neapolitans.

The

* It is remarkable that the oaths and curses so frequent in the mouths of the vulgar change entirely at the first step one makes out of the Roman into the Neapolitan territories. The Romans, having the fear of the inquisition before their eyes, vent their choler in obscure words, or pious ejaculations; but the swearing of the Neapolitan, who is under no such restraint, borders upon blasphemy; when in a passion, he devotes not only himself but the souls of all his forefathers to eternal perdition; nay I remember hearing a Lazarone, in the height of his resentment against an old woman, damn even the priest that had christened her.

The Jews have often been banished, and afterwards suffered to return. Their final expulsion was at the birth of Don Philip, first male child of the king of Spain. Their despair and rage were excessive at being driven from the place of their nativity and settlement; they filled the air with lamentations and curses against the new born prince, and when he was known to be a perfect idiot, triumphed in what they called a judgment of God in honour of his old favourite people. Their abode was in the Giudeca, where the same rag-fair is continued by Christians, who seem to have been infected by the air of the place; for they have imbibed the spirit, and practise the tricks of their Hebrew predecessors.

Men of observation have assured me that within their memory, a very visible diminution has taken place in the enthusiasm of the Neapolitans for Saint Januarius, and other objects of their devotion, and that the power which the ecclesiastical part of the nation had over the laical, has lost much ground since the banishment of the Jesuits; but still great is the empire which zealous or artful men exercise over the minds of the populace, and scarce any imposition is too gross for the multitude.

S E C T I O N XII.

AS soon as the autumnal rains had refreshed the earth, and restored a wholesome elasticity to the air, I ventured to make some inland journies. Caserta was the object of one excursion; it lies almost sixteen miles from the capital, at the foot of a lofty ridge of hills, the outskirts of those mountains that cover the greatest part of the northern provinces. The country I passed through is quite level, and the fertility of its soil can alone compensate to the traveller for the exclusion of all prospect by woods of vine-bearing trees.

The town of new Caserta is irregularly built, and its old palace not more remarkable than many other baronial residences, erected with an eye to defence in civil wars, rather than to convenience in peaceable times; the catholic king purchased it of the Gaetano family, and fitted it up for the reception of his court, while he was carrying on his noble plans at a small distance behind it; he there caused to be erected, according to the designs of Vanvitelli, a palace which, in size and solidity, surpasses almost every royal edifice in Europe. The vast dimensions of its apartments, the bold span of their ceilings, the excellence and beauty of the materials employed in building and decorating it, and the strength of the masonry, claim the admiration of all

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beholders,

beholders, who must confess it is a dwelling spacious and grand enough to have lodged the ancient masters of the Roman world.—It is a pity that its enormous bulk drowns the minuter members of its architecture, and gives too much the idea of a regular monastery, where the wealthy chief of some religious order presides over long dormitories of segregated monks; by the gigantic range, and the number of windows, too great a sameness is produced, the few breaks in the front become imperceptible, and the lines too long and uniform, consequently fatiguing to the eye; the colonnades sink into the walls, and variety is in vain sought for in the prodigious expanse; bolder and greater projections, massive towers, arcades or porticos, would have shewn the parts of this great building to more advantage, and formed those happy contrasts that are so necessary in works of so very large a dimension. Upon a nearer approach, the parts and proportions are better distinguished, and the objection ceases.

The two principal fronts are seven hundred and eighty seven feet in length, and contain five stories of thirty-seven windows each. The two other sides are six hundred and sixteen feet long, and consist also of five stories, in each of which are twenty-seven windows. The interior is divided into four courts, and in the center of the palace is a superb stair-case, crowned by a circular hall which affords a communication to every set of apartments. The richest
marbles

marbles are displayed with profusion, most of them dug out of quarries within the realm.*

The chapel is incrustated with pannels of yellow marble, but the paintings, by Conca, are unworthy of the place

* For the satisfaction of the lovers of natural history, I shall here subjoin a list of the different sorts of stone and marble belonging to the two Sicilies, which were examined by the king's orders, when he determined to undertake this building. Most, if not all, of them were afterwards used in the work.

1. Pietra travertina dura, from the mountain of S. Joris near Capua.
2. Ditto of a better grain—Vellona near Capua.
3. Ditto softer—dove coloured—Mountain of Caiazzo, in large blocks fit for statues.
4. Pietra of Mondragone for columns.
5. Ditto veined with yellow.
6. Ditto large masses, near the sea.
7. Lumachello of Sicily of all lengths, of which the steps of the great stair-case are made, of one piece each.
8. Pietra of St. Angelo of Puglia for columns.
9. Red Pietra of Puglia of a bad quality.
10. Sicilian yellow for columns.
11. Pietra di Biliemoni in Sicily for columns.
12. Pietra di Calabria, hard.
13. Alabaster of Vitolano, resembling antique flowered alabaster.
14. Ditto for balusters.
15. Breccia of La Tripalda, veined with coral colour.
16. Yellow alabaster of Gesualdo for columns.
17. Red breccia from Piedimonte in small pieces for rails.
18. Yellow breccia from Rocca Monfina.
19. Verde of Calabria, green and white veined like antique Bianco e nero.
20. Slabs of peach-blossomed marble from Puglia.
21. Pietra di Montevergine.

they

they occupy ; a presentation by Mengs, is a picture of much greater merit.

The theatre is a master-piece of art ; antique columns of alabaster support the roof, and divide the house into forty-two boxes richly decorated ; every part of the design tends to the formation of one magnificent scene, and to set off both actors and spectators to the best advantage.

The gardens are very extensive, but when finished according to the original plan, will resemble the formal insipid scenes of Le Notre, with wide sultry alleys, and crowded rows of statues. A road is to be opened through the plain to Naples, in a direct line from the front of the palace, for the future torment of impatient travellers ; a broad canal is also to be cut from the garden to the hills, and there to receive, by an artificial cascade, the waters that are brought at a great expence to supply the palace ; Vanvitelli, whose ideas were of the sublime kind, traced up to their sources, the streams that in ancient times were conveyed to Capua, and found them among the mountains, nine miles from Caserta ; he then confined them to one regular channel, and led them by an easy fall along the sinuosities of several valleys, till the depth of one hollow, and the height of the opposite ridge of hills, made it necessary to build an aqueduct across for their conveyance. A less expensive mode might perhaps have been devised, but it was the wish both of the sovereign and his architect

to raise a monument that should transmit their names to posterity with honour.

The aqueduct is an edifice of three stories of arcades, of which the upper one is divided into forty-three arches; the two lower ones, on account of the declivity of the hills, and contraction of the valley, consist of fewer; solidity has been more attended to than ornament; the work is plain, but built to withstand the insults of time; from hence the waters are carried in a channel to the cascade, and pass under the city of Caserta Vecchia; this place was in its origin a hamlet, built by some families that escaped from the ruins of Capua; from the bleakness of its situation it was called *Caserta*, *Dreary house*, and it now seems very likely to relapse into its pristine state by the emigration of the inhabitants, drawn into the plain by the conveniences of the new city and the charms of its court.

The last and present monarchs have expended large sums in embellishing the environs of Caserta, in planting groves, and building places of rendezvous for hunting.

I traversed the beautiful grove of evergreen oaks in the old garden, called the Boschetto, and drove a few miles towards the sea to dine at a nobleman's seat. It stands in a large grass farm, divided by hedges, and sheltered by oak woods. The country is flat, and rather unhealthy in summer; the pernicious quality of its exhalations does not affect any living creature but man; this situation is peculiarly adapted to breeding and feeding horses and cattle; the only defect

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I suspect in its nature is a softness which must debilitate their constitution, and make their feet too tender. After dinner the nobleman's stud passed in review before us; the number of mares and foals was prodigious, but very few of them excelled in any capital point of strength or beauty. Little care is taken to choose grooms, possessed of real skill and discernment, and proper crosses in the breed seem not to be sufficiently the objects of attention. The king has also a large stud in this neighbourhood.

The breed of this noble animal might with judicious management be greatly improved and converted to a lucrative branch of exportation; but the plan for mounting the cavalry at an easy expence obstructs such extensive views. The sale of horses to foreigners has for many years been prohibited or subjected to a heavy duty. The king's commissioners mark all the foals likely to suit the service, and keep so regular a list that it is very difficult to convey a horse out of the kingdom without being detected, for the proprietors must produce their number according to the inventory, or shew the skins of those that have died since the last visitation.

The Neapolitan horses have long been celebrated, and Naples has long had an unbridled steed for its badge. When Frederic of Swabia came from Germany to take possession of his Sicilian crown, his nobles met him at Rome, and generously presented him with all their fine

well-taught horses to distribute among his ill-mounted followers.

The Neapolitan jockies break in their colts with so rough a hand, and such want of temper, that the animal's spirit is quite beaten down; I once saw one thrown down by a brutal fellow, and almost strangled in the scuffle.

These horses are very pleasant for a ride near town by way of parade, but much too soft and weak to stand fatigue, or bear a severe push upon an emergency; for this reason the farmers prefer breeding mules, and neglect their horses; some barons keep stallions, and raise large studs.

J O U R N E Y
T O
P Æ S T U M.

S E C T I O N XIII.

TOWARDS the end of September, I set out upon a tour to Pæstum, and the coast of Amalfi.

On the bridge of la Madelena, at the extremity of the suburbs of Naples, a statue of St. Januarius reminds passengers of the dreadful eruptions of Vesuvius to which he is supposed so often to have prescribed bounds; a broad level road by the sea side, and through a village where many of the nobility have villas, leads to the palace of Portici; at a small distance from it is the entrance into Herculaneum, a city buried by a torrent of lava that issued from the mountain, in the first year of the emperor Titus Vespasian. The thickness of the heap that covers it has been
much

much increased by fiery streams vomited since that catastrophe, and now forms a mass twenty-four feet deep of dark gray stone, which is easily broken to pieces; by its non-adhesion to foreign bodies, marbles and bronzes are preserved in it, as in a case made to fit them, and exact moulds of the faces and limbs of statues are frequently found in this substance.

The precise situation of this subterraneous city was not known till the year 1713, when it was accidentally discovered by some labourers, who, in digging a well, struck upon a statue on the benches of the theatre. Many others were afterwards dug out and sent to France by the prince of Elbœuf; but little progress was made in the excavations till Charles, infant of Spain, ascended the Neapolitan throne; by his unwearied efforts and liberality a very considerable part of Herculaneum has been explored, and such treasures of antiquity drawn out as form the most curious museum in the world. It being too arduous a task to attempt removing the covering, the king contented himself with cutting galleries to the principal buildings, and causing the extent of one or two of them to be cleared: of these the theatre is the most considerable. On a balustrade which divided the orchestra from the stage was found a row of statues, and on each side of the pulpitum, the equestrian figure of a person of the Nonia family; they are now placed under the porticos of the palace, and from the great rarity of equestrian statues in marble would be very valuable objects,

objects, were their workmanship even less excellent than it is; one of them in particular is a very fine piece of sculpture.*

Since the king of Spain left Naples, the digging has been continued, but with less spirit and expenditure; indeed the collection of curiosities brought out of Herculaneum and Pompeii is already so considerable, that a relaxation of zeal and activity becomes excusable.

From these gloomy vaults I returned with eagerness to contemplate the riches they once contained, now arranged in a wing of the palace; I shall not attempt to draw up a tedious catalogue, but point out a few of the most remarkable articles. This museum possesses not only statues, busts, altars, inscriptions and other ornamental appendages of opulence and luxury, but also an entire assortment of the domestic, musical, and chirurgical instruments used by the ancients; tripods of elegant form and exquisite execution, lamps in endless variety, vases and basins of noble dimensions, chandeliers of the most beautiful shapes, pateras and other appurtenances of sacrifice, looking glasses of polished metal, coloured glass so hard, clear and well stained, as to appear emeralds, sapphires and other precious stones; a kitchen compleatly fitted up with copperpans lined with silver, kettles, cisterns for heating water, and every utensil necessary

* The dedicatory inscription of this theatre is

C. A. P. P. R. O. C. E. T. H. E. R. C. V. L. E. N. S. E. S. D. D.

necessary for culinary purposes; specimens of various sorts of combustibles, retaining their form though burnt to a cinder; corn, bread, fish, oil, wine and flour; a lady's toilet, fully furnished with combs, thimbles, rings, paint, ear-rings, &c. Among the statues, which are numerous, connoisseurs allow the greatest share of merit to a Mercury and a sleeping faun; the busts fill several rooms, but very few of the originals, whom they were meant to imitate, are known. The floors are paved with ancient Mosaic; few rare medals have been found in these ruins; the most curious is a gold medallion of Augustus struck in Sicily in the fifteenth year of his reign. The fresco paintings, which, for the sake of preservation, have been torn off the walls and framed and glazed, are to be seen in another part of the palace; the elegance of the attitudes, and the infinite variety of the subjects, stamp them as performances worthy of the attention of artists and antiquarians; but no pictures yet found are masterly enough to prove that the Greeks carried the art of painting to as great a height of perfection as they did that of statuary; yet can we suppose those authors incapable of appreciating the merits of an Appelles or a Zeuxis, who with so much critical discernment have pointed out the beauties of the works of a Phidias or a Praxiteles; beauties that we have still an opportunity of contemplating; would they have bestowed equal praises upon both kinds of performances, if either of them had been much inferior to the other? I think it is not probable, and
we

we must presume that the capital productions of the ancient painters, being of more perishable materials than busts and statues, have been destroyed in the fatal disasters that have so often afflicted both Greece and Italy. Herculaneum and Pompeii were but towns of the second order, and not likely to possess the masterpieces of the great artists, which were usually destined to adorn the more celebrated temples, or the palaces of kings and emperors.

A more valuable acquisition than bronzes and pictures was thought to be made, when a large parcel of manuscripts was found among the ruins; hopes were entertained that many works of the classics, which time has deprived us of, were now going to be restored to light, and that a new mine of science was on the point of being opened. But the difficulty of unrolling the burnt parchment, of pasting the fragments on a flat surface, and of decyphering the obscure letters have proved such obstacles that very little progress has been made in the work. A priest invented the method of proceeding, but it would require the joint labours of many learned men to carry on so nice and tedious an operation with any success. The plan is dropped, and the manuscripts now lie in dusty heaps, as useless to the learned world as they had been for the preceding seventeen centuries. One volume that was unrolled and completely read contained a Greek treatise against the bad effects of music in a republic.

The royal residence is spacious and well situated, open on

one side to the sea, on the other to a large garden and wilderness of ever-green oaks, planted by the late king on the ashes of Vesuvius, which seems to rise out of the grove itself. In this garden the king frequently reviews his chosen corps of Liparotes and Cadets; he condescended one summer to convert these military exercises into a most agreeable fête champêtre. During a whole week in June, the Neapolitan nobility and foreigners repaired in the afternoon to this ground, where the different bodies of troops performed for two hours the manœuvres of investing, battering and storming a castle; the siege was opened by skirmishes, followed by regular entrenchments, cannonading and bombarding. The shells were of pasteboard and thrown so dextrously as to fall at the queen's feet on the balcony of the beleaguered fortress.

At the close of these martial operations, the whole company adjourned to a temporary theatre, and after the opera to a ball. The presence of the sovereigns rather increased the general ease and gaiety, than gave the least check to the genial freedom that pervaded the whole assembly.

I continued my journey through a most delightful populous country, between Vesuvius and the sea to Torre della Nunziata, and from thence two miles further to the hillocks formed by the ashes that were cast upon the town of Pompeii, by the eruption of the year seventy-nine.

The place is inclosed and guarded to prevent pilfering and the admission of improper persons. The entrance of
Pompeii

Pompeii is near the quadrangular barracks of the Roman cohorts that composed the garrison; a portico runs round the court supported by pillars of stone covered with stucco and painted. The soldiers, in their idle hours, amused themselves with drawing figures of fencers and wrestlers, and in writing their names upon the plaister; the letters are very long and closely joined together. The present silence and ruinous state of these barracks gave me an idea of a town surrendered after a long siege; I could hardly persuade myself that what I saw had been buried and undisturbed for one thousand seven hundred years. The troops seem to have been accommodated with every convenience and even luxury, for they had both a theatre and an amphitheatre belonging to their quarters.

Near the city wall at this angle lie the fragments of a temple of the old Doric order, monuments of much higher antiquity than the rest of the town. I suppose they were part of some fabric thrown down by an earthquake previous to the eruption.

The excavations have not been pursued with regularity, but carried on in different situations, just as hope or caprice actuated the minds of the engineers. The center of the city is yet hidden under the vineyards, while the principal exertions are made near the walls and gates. One opening displays some houses, part of a street, and a temple of Isis. The outward appearance of the temple is simplicity itself; its architecture slight, and without any pretensions

pretensions to the grandeur or solidity of those places of worship which were dedicated to the great national deities; the votaries of the Sabine Isis, as she is named in an inscription still fixed in the wall, were ambitious only of erecting a small neat sanctuary, not a grand fabric, as perhaps the earthquake, which did incredible damage in Campania in the reign of Nero, had affected their fortunes too sensibly to allow of a more expensive undertaking *. The walls are covered with ornaments in stucco executed in a coarse manner; the inscriptions and paintings have been cut out of this as well as other buildings of Pompeii, and removed to Portici for greater safety, but they have left disagreeable vacancies that disfigure the walls. The penetrale of the temple is a small pavilion raised upon steps, under which is a vault that may have served for the purposes of oracular imposition: The statue of the goddess was not found on the pedestal when the area was uncovered; but as the root of a vine was growing directly upon it, there is reason to suppose that some peasant had discovered the statue, in making a hole for his plant, and disposed of it long before government had declared any intentions of digging in these grounds.

* The repairing of this temple is recorded in the following inscription:

N. Popidius N. F. Celsinus ædem Isidis, terræ motu conlapsam à fundamento P. S. restituit. Hunc Decuriones ob liberalitatem cum esset annorum Sexs ordini suo gratis adlegerunt.

I was next conducted through a large track of vineyard to a cavity of considerable extent, which has laid open part of a principal street, one of the city gates, a length of wall, some tombs, and a road without the gates. The town walls are built with large squares of lava in regular courses, and the streets are paved with the same materials irregularly laid; the feet of horses and the wheels* of carriages have worn deep marks in the lava.

The Pompeians paid no attention to uniformity in building their houses, for some advance, while others retire behind the line; the shops have stone seats before them, and over their doors emblems of their trade in relieve. Their appearance is exactly the same as that of the present shops of Rome and Naples. † From an inscription lately dug up, I find that the Pompeians had places of public entertainment, not unlike the modern ones in the suburbs of London and Paris.

* The distance between the wheels was exactly four feet three inches.

† IN PROEDIS VLIAE S P F In prædiis Juliæ sine patre filiæ.
FELICIS LOCANTVR
BALNEVM VENERIVM ET NONGENTVM
TABERNAE PERGVLAE
COENACVLA EX IDIBVS AVG PRIMIS IN IDVS AVG SEXTAS
S. Q D L E N C A Si quis dominam loci ejus non cognoverit adeat
SVETIVM VERVM AEDIL.

By this advertisement it seems that the mistress reserved to herself the possession of the premises for a few days in August, or let them only for a year, wanting six days.

The houses are small and built round courts, from which all the apartments received their light ; a grate in the centre carried off the water that fell from the roof. The walls of the rooms are stuccoed and painted in a most beautiful taste. On a brown, orange, or other strong-coloured ground, the painter has traced light borders and flowing garlands, encircling masks, animals, fruits, landscapes, or decorations of capricious architecture ; it is remarkable that in the representations of porticos and temples, the style is as barbarous as that of the Gothic ages ; the columns are slender to excess, the entablatures heavy and crowded with fantastic ornaments, which I was surprised and shocked to find in a city where the Greek taste in arts ought to have been more religiously adhered to. I saw no landscape in which the artist has discovered any thorough knowledge of perspective. The rooms are small and square, and many had no light but through the door ; in the kitchens and apartments of the servants, a green serpent is painted upon the wall, before which a lamp was kept burning ; the same divinity was worshipped near the road, without the walls ; on each side of the highway that led down to the sea are tombs, oratories, and semicircular benches, where the magistrates sat in their senatorial capacities on some particular occasions. The mausoleum of the Terentian family is entirely uncovered ; it consists of a square court, on the walls of which are placed the skulls of victims sacrificed in funeral ceremonies, and large masks with weeping countenances



COURT of a COUNTRY-HOUSE near THE GATES of POMPEII.

nances and hollow eyes; lights were placed behind them on days of mourning. The pile on which the bodies were consumed stands in the centre of the court near a tower, where the urns were placed in niches.

At a small distance from the city the road is bordered by country houses buried under hillocks of cinders; two only have as yet been dug into; the first was not finished when the fatal event took place, as appears from the heaps of tiles and bricks with which the windows were stopped up. The other is without dispute the compleatest sample we have of the private dwellings of the ancients; it has been covered and preserved for our inspection, through a long series of seventeen ages, and except in the roof, which could not sustain the weight of such a shower of ashes, is at present exactly in the same state as it was on the day of the eruption by which it was overwhelmed. It consisted of four levels; viz. the cellars, a parterre with its portico or cloyster, and as it was on a rapid declivity, a court above, in which was the street door, and over that, a floor for bed-chambers; to the road it presents nothing but a bare wall, for, like the Oriental nations, the proprietor of this suburban abode guarded against inspection from without, by opening no windows except towards his own garden; from the town I entered it by a court surrounded with stuccoed columns; adjoining is a triangular area, distributed into alcoves and closets for different sorts of baths. From the level of this floor a terrace projects on each side

2 round

round a large square; under this story is a broad gallery and coved apartments for summer residence, and on each hand under the terraces runs a portico meeting opposite the house in a hall, that probably opened into the vineyard or pleasure grounds. Here was found the skeleton of the master with the house key and a purse of gold. The cellars still contain several amphoras ranged along the wall, and the bones of many wretches who had fled thither for shelter, against the storm that was falling on their heads; but as the ashes were mixed with water and filled up every chink, they entirely covered the bodies of these persons; the stream was so thin, and yet composed of such tenacious substances, that impressions even of the fleshy parts of the human body, have remained in the mud.

The ceilings and walls of this villa are beautifully adorned with a variety of paintings, which display great fertility of imagination, and elegance of taste; the festoons and borders are admirable, both for lightness of form and brilliancy of colour; as the cinders were not heavy enough to break through the ceilings of the lower range of apartments, and could only force their way into them obliquely, these rooms were not quite filled up, so that their paintings have been preserved much better than any others. All these buildings have lost much of their beauty, by the best paintings being cut out of their walls, and carried to Portici, from an apprehension that the admission of air would

would soon eat out their colours if left exposed to it. In the window of a bed-chamber some panes of glass are still remaining.

A very small number of workmen is now employed in uncovering this curious city; the reasons given for such slackness, are a satiety of antiquities, and the difficulty of finding proper spots to lay the rubbish upon: the king is obliged to take a lease of the land he chooses to open, and must also hire ground to deposit the earth taken out; many projects of subscriptions and adventure have been devised for carrying on these labours with spirit and regularity, but hitherto none have met with the royal approbation.

Pompeii derived its name from the triumphal pomp in which Hercules led his captives along the coast after the conquest of Spain. From some expressions in the classics* I infer that Pompeii stood upon an arm of the sea, and served as a staple for the inland towns; that this inlet has been since choaked up by immense loads of ashes thrown out of the mountain, and the sea confined to its present limits by the raising of the land; it is not at all a surprising effort for the volcano; the prodigious quantity of matter it vomited in the time of Titus would alone suffice, but we know besides that many extensive lavas have been poured down, and

* Livy, in his first decad, book the 9th, gives an account of a Roman fleet being driven into Pompeii, and landing its marines to plunder the territory of Nuceria.—*Classis Romana in Campaniam acta quum adpulsa Pompeios esset, socii inde navales ad depopulandum agrum Nucerinum profecti.*

many ashy showers launched over their plains since that epocha; Cassiodorus speaks of an eruption that filled the whole country with cinders up to the summit of the trees. The alterations the face of this country has undergone at different periods must have been very striking and numerous, as it is clear to demonstration, that Vesuvius had emitted flames many ages before the first eruption recorded in history; Pompeii, which was destroyed at that time, is not only paved with lava, but actually stands upon alternate strata of volcanic ashes and decomposed vegetation, as is apparent in the wells and other subterraneous cavities.

S E C T I O N XIV.

I NOW returned to my carriage, and continued my journey through a fertile plain, divided into fields by ditches and rows of poplars.

I crossed the Sarno at the bridge of La Scafata*, near which place Teia, king of the Goths, was defeated and slain in 553, by Narfes. The Sarno is a beautiful limpid stream, abounding with eels and cray-fish, but too deep to be forded. It issues out of the eastern chain of mountains in two streams, which unite and inclose the little

* Or the ferry, as there was formerly no bridge there.

town of Sarno, before they begin their winding course through the plains. *

La Scafata is now best known by its church, dedicated to a Madonna, who performs her miracles in water. On the day of her feast a pond is dug in the adjacent fields, which almost instantaneously fills with water, and thousands of devout persons plunge into it to bathe for the cure of a variety of disorders; formerly men and women dipped promiscuously, but of late years government has obliged them to wash in separate pools; the secret of this extraordinary influx is that the ground lies so level with the bed of the Sarno, or such is the quantity of moisture that filters from the adjoining hills, that wherever you dig, water will immediately follow the spade.

I next passed through the episcopal city of Nocera, which might with greater propriety be styled a cluster of

* Within this fork, the army of John of Anjou was encamped when Ferdinand the First attacked it and was repulsed with great slaughter. The defeat was so complete, that if the Angevine prince had been possessed of as much judgment and foresight, as he was of valour and military knowledge, he would, by following that blow, have wrested the crown from the Arragonians. But indolence and neglect of his advantages rendered this victory fruitless.

Before that period, the banks of the Sarno were famous for the engagement between king Roger and the prince of Capua, in which the former was routed.

In the fifteenth century Sarno was purchased by Francis Coppola, an adventurer; this man, by the favour of Ferdinand the First, amassed great wealth, but lost it all, together with his life, for joining in the grand conspiracy of the barons.

villages ; its scattered members extend along the foot of the mountains, and form the Città Sotana, or low town, while the bishop's palace and some convents, embowered in cypress groves, cover the peak of a single hill in a very picturesque manner, and compose the Città Soprana.

* Nocera contains near thirty thousand inhabitants, if their own accounts are to be credited ; they are dispersed in forty patches of habitation ; their houses are constructed with two sorts of stone ; the common walls are built with yellow tufa dug out of the hills that lie about a mile to the east ; this stone must undoubtedly have been formed by a consolidation of substances thrown out of Vesuvius,, because, on opening these quarries, the workmen have frequently discovered tombs, vases, and coins locked up in the body of the stony stratum. The cases of their door and windows are made of a black stone drawn from the hill of Fiano, two miles to the north, where it lies eight feet below the surface, in a bed or vein one hundred and forty feet thick, resting upon a base of sand. This is clearly a stream of lava congealed.

The best lands of Nocera are situated to the westward ; from the abundance of water with which they can at all times be refreshed, some of them yield the husbandman

* Anciently, Nuceria Alphenata, a word of unknown etymology. It was a Roman colony and had its mint.

Num. Nucerin.

1. Caput virile imberbe—Equus stans capite reflexo, inter crura. A . . IN . .
three

three crops in one year, viz. beans, turkey-wheat, and broccoli, or similar sorts of vegetables; the usual rent is twenty ducats (3*l* 15*s*) per moggio*. Other grounds are let from eight to fifteen ducats the moggio, and yield only two crops, but they are planted with fruit trees and vines; there is a third and most valuable track called le Padule or Incegni, from the use of the Egyptian wheel; these parts are allotted to horticulture, and produce both fruit and vegetables in astonishing abundance, but as the rent is so high as twenty five ducats (4*l* 13*s* 9*d*) the tenant must take off two good crops at least each year to be able to support himself and family. From the humidity of the soil, millet grows here in great perfection, wine is superabundant, and the Nocerines drink largely of it, which causes perpetual brawls and bloodshed among them.

Nocera is a place of great antiquity; in the thirteenth century it acquired the appellation of de Pagani, to distinguish it from a city in Umbria of a similar name; this addition alludes to a colony of Saracens brought from Sicily by Frederick of Swabia, and settled here to be out of the way of their dangerous connections with Africa; on this account

* Five moggie are equal to four English acres—One moggio being equal to 35721 square feet.

† The following circumstance is a sample of this fruitfulness: One summer the quantity of cherries was so great that hands were wanting to gather them, and they were so cheap as not to be worth the carriage to Naples; notice was therefore given by the owners of orchards that every body was at liberty to gather, eat, or carry away as many as he thought proper.

Nocera

Nocera is frequently confounded with Lucera by the remiss or ignorant chroniclers of the succeeding ages. The most extraordinary event in its history is the siege of its castle, in the year 1384. Pope Urban the Sixth had encouraged Charles of Durazzo to invade the kingdom of his relation and benefactress Joan the First, because she favoured the party of the antipope of Avignon, and also because he expected to obtain from Charles a princely establishment for his nephews. Durazzo promised every thing and fulfilled nothing; Urban, one of the most violent of men, was exasperated at this breach of faith, and to be revenged, commenced a treaty with the sons of Lewis of Anjou, who had been adopted by the unfortunate queen on the news of Durazzo's intended invasion. To prevent these intended machinations producing any pernicious effects, Charles dispatched an army to seize the pope's person in Nocera, where he then resided with a small court of Cardinals. The attack was made with fury, but repelled with equal valour; Urban's inflexible character instilled incredible spirit into his partisans; to omit no species of assistance, he was wont to appear at a window thrice a day, holding in his hand a bell and lighted torch, and there excommunicate his enemies, thus devoting their souls to everlasting perdition, while his soldiers were dealing out destruction on their bodies. The assaults growing more and more vigorous, and the strength of the garrison diminishing daily, the cardinals began to press the pope to think of some accommodation;

modation; this eagerness of theirs for peace excited much jealousy and rage in the breast of the haughty pontiff, who, upon intercepting a letter in cyphers from the enemy's camp, caused the five cardinals that were shut up with him to be put to the torture, in order to force a confession of their intentions of betraying him. His secretary Theodoric de Niem writes, that it was a curious spectacle to behold the pope walking backwards and forwards repeating his breviary, while cardinal Sangro lay stretched upon the rack, and now and then stopping to ask how his treaty with the king went on. Though none of these prelates made any confession, Urban put them all to death, and maintained the siege till Raymond Orfino and Thomas Sanseverino, at the head of a band of desperadoes, forced the royal lines, and conveyed him off safe to the Genoese gallies that were lying in readiness to receive him.

The Caraffas were lords of this manor in the sixteenth century; Philip the Fourth mortgaged it to a Portuguese nobleman, whose heirs still possess it. The absence of the baron causes a fatal relaxation of justice and order, and renders Nocera notorious for quarrels. A friend of mine, whose avocations oblige him to pay frequent visits to this city, by which means he has acquired a thorough knowledge of the manners and character of the inhabitants, paints the Nocerines as differing essentially from the rest of the Campanians; he thinks they have inherited from their Arabian ancestors a temper more prone to bloodshed,
more

more deaf to remonstrance, and inaccessible to reconciliation; they drink a great deal of strong wine, and are very quarrelsome when intoxicated. He reckoned in the course of one year forty homicides, sixteen of which he was an eye witness of; they are also attached to a variety of idle superstitions, which, however, are daily losing ground. Of these none is more singular than the ceremony of the feast of the Madonna delle Galline: during the procession, hundreds of hens are placed successively on the poles that support her image, and the miracle consists in the birds sitting quiet. The number of people pressing on every side, and the surrounding noise make the poor frightened hens remain as still as if perched at roost.

S E C T I O N XV.

AFTER leaving Nocera, the road is confined between walls, and in rainy weather is filled by a very considerable stream from the mountains; without these bulwarks the grounds below would be torn to pieces, and even now so great a quantity of water and pebbles is hurried down by the torrent that it often bursts the parapets, and overwhelms large tracks of cultivated fields with barren heaps of rubble-stones. As the damage is sometimes very extensive, the proprietors have a scheme under consideration

tion for conveying all these waters in one body to the Sarno by means of a canal.

A mile from Nocera is a church dedicated to the V. M. erected by the immediate successors of Constantine the Great, with the fragments of a pagan temple. The outside architecture is quite plain; within it is of a circular form; the roof, a flattish cove, rests upon small ill-proportioned arcades, which again are supported by thirty columns of various kinds of marble, with capitals of different foliage, but all intended to be of the Corinthian order; these pillars are grouped in pairs and placed in lines drawn from a central point, thus forming a double colonnade at a considerable distance from the outer wall; within this circle is an octagon basin where the Greeks baptized by immersion; it had formerly a canopy held up by small Corinthian columns, of which only five remain. The whole arrangement is deficient in beauty and argues a decline in the fine arts.

Near this church the road, which is perfectly good, turns off to the right, and ascends a mountain that unites the Sorrentine promontory with the grand mass of the Apennines; in former times the passage towards Calabria was in a direct line through the valley of Sanseverino, belonging to the princes of Salerno, who exacted tolls from travellers in a most arbitrary manner. About two hundred years ago, the oppression grew so intolerable, that it awoke the attention of administration; the viceroy opened a new road by la

Cava, a royal manor, and took such precautions to render it safe and convenient that the old one was entirely abandoned.

The views during the passage over these heights are extremely beautiful, and the more pleasing from their dissimilitude to the scenes round Vesuvius; they consist of a great variety of hill and dale, terminated on each side by a noble range of mountains; vast tracks of wood clothe the neighbouring slopes; slender turrets built for the purpose of netting wood pigeons appear on each commanding point; wild dashes of rock break the uniformity of the green forest; villages, convents, and villas are seated in the angles of the mountains; and near the road the country is one rich vineyard diversified by clumps of tall trees or spiral avenues of cypresses. This is certainly the happiest of scenes for the study of landscape painting; nature is no where dressed in gayer attire, her features are no where better disposed for warming the imagination and rousing the enthusiasm of a great artist; we are informed by tradition that some of the most celebrated masters have felt the force of these charms, and introduced many of these beauties into their admirable compositions.

La Cava was more properly a district containing many villages and hamlets than a city, till the new road brought to it a concourse of travellers and merchants. Having long been a part of the king's domain, it has been encouraged to traffic by many valuable privileges; a cloth manufactory gives it life and increase of population, and its
inhabitants

inhabitants seem to enjoy greater ease in their circumstances than those of the neighbourhood. They were remarkable for a pertinacious opposition to the late powerful society of St. Ignatius, which they would on no account suffer to gain a settlement among them; but, though they were able in this instance to baffle the policy of the most acute order of men in the Roman church, they are by no means distinguished from the rest of the natives by the brightness of their intellects; quite the reverse, the simplicity and blunders of the Cavaoli are the subject of many standing jokes in the country.

I deviated from the high road, and visited the celebrated Benedictine abbey of la Trinita, to which all the environs formerly belonged; but to avoid its being put into commendam, the monks obtained of Leo the Tenth, the right of choosing a superior out of their own body, at the expence of as much of their estate as made a competent revenue for the bishop; they acknowledge that there still remains a clear yearly income of fifteen thousand ducats (28121 10s) after this defalcation, and, I believe, they are wise enough to speak very much within the bounds of truth.

This abbey founded by Alferius of Salerno, and particularly patronised by the Norman princes, is situated in a dell among the woods; it is overshadowed by a huge cliff, on the lofty brow of which is a little walled burgh called

Corpo di Cava, the original town; of which the present city and its Cafali were only dependencies.

The church and monastery have been lately rebuilt upon the foundations of the old abbey, which was not sufficiently raised above the level of the torrent that rolls in the dark glen below. The ancient dormitory is now the cellar. The church and the abbot's apartments occupy the front of the quadrangle, built in the style of a modern palace; there are faults in the architecture, but the general effect is extremely agreeable. The inside of the church is light and rich in marbles, but not in paintings; the altar is insulated; the ashes of the founder are deposited in a tomb covered with Mosaic flowers and grotesques in the style used by the Saracenic artists of the eleventh century; most of the buildings erected by the Norman kings were carried on according to their plans, and under their direction, for the Christians were at that time ignorant of all sciences except the military one. These Saracenic architects and masons, with whom, in process of time, many Greeks and other Christians associated, after serving an apprenticeship to them, formed themselves into a confraternity and mystery, and travelled over the world, undertaking buildings by contract. They kept their rules and modes of proceeding a profound secret, and knew one another by certain signs, which none but the initiated could perceive, or understand. Free masonry is the genuine offspring of this society, though its present members only exercise
their

their architectonic talents with chalk upon the floors of their lodge. The tomb of Alferius is placed in a chapel hewn out of the rocks which appear through the side wall of the church, and have a very disagreeable effect in an edifice adorned in all its other parts in a gay modern manner.

In the porch is the monument of Sybilla, wife of king Roger, decorated with the same kind of neat Mosaic.

The abbot has a pleasant habitation, and some good pictures; he very politely pressed me to make some stay in the convent, but it being inconvenient for me to accept his hospitable invitation, I continued my journey down a beautiful winding road, which afforded uncommon points of view at every turn. A brook hastening to discharge itself into the gulf of Salerno roars along the bottom of a narrow valley through woods and rocks, which opens at a delightful village called Molina, and suddenly displays a fine prospect of the sea.

At Vietri, which is a considerable town on a promontory, the highway turns round to the left, and, descending rapidly over prodigious piles of rocks that line the shore, after a course of two miles reaches the gates of Salerno. An astonishing variety of scenery occurs during the last hour's ride; here no species of natural beauty is wanting that can be desired in the composition of the richest landscape; the sea spreads out an immense blue surface, and lest its uniformity should appall, suffers many shaggy rocks to
break

break the smooth line ; bold mountains and woody plains advance and circumscribe its limits ; stupendous cliffs, cast in the grandest mould of nature, hang majestically over the deep ; romantic towers guard the coast, which is ornamented with gay villas and hanging gardens, behind which rise hills clad with verdure of a thousand tints, and in the bosom of a noble theatre of mountains, the extensive buildings of Salerno ascend in a pyramidical form to the ruins of its ancient castle, that crowns this wonderful picture.

S E C T I O N XVI.

SALERNO extends about two miles in circumference ; part of it lies along the shore, the rest rises in terraces up to the castle mount, which is remarkable for nothing but its situation on a pinnacle detached from the general mass of mountains. Ancient walls in tolerable repair inclose the whole ; the streets are narrow and crooked, the houses high and gloomy. The old sovereigns of this principality dwelt in a palace near the cathedral, but the only traces of it I could perceive are in the names of some of the neighbouring streets, as S. Pietro in corte, Strada reale, &c.

St. Matthew is the tutelar saint of Salerno ; his bones are said to have been brought from Pæstum, and deposited in the archiepiscopal church. The see was established in

994, and became an archbishoprick in 1099. The cathedral was erected by the pious donations of the Norman conquerors upon the site of an ancient building; the style of architecture is Gothic and heavy, much the worse for some late repairs, by which the clustered groups of columns that bear the weight of the roof are shut up in massive squares of stone and plaster. The atrium, or court before it, is spacious and surrounded by a portico of antique columns of porphyry, granite, and other valuable marbles of various sizes and orders, upon which the Normans constructed a range of brick arches, bent more after the Saracenic than the Gothic or Grecian manner; they support a regular set of apartments; In the centre is a basin of granite, fifteen feet in diameter, constantly filled by a fountain of excellent water. Many ancient sepulchres are placed in the colonnade, and the church contains also some monuments of remarkable personages. Roger, duke of Puglia, who died in 1111, and his son William, in whose person the line of Robert Guiscard failed, are interred within its walls. On each side of the entrance into the choir is a pulpit raised upon pillars, where the deacon and sub-deacon read the epistle and gospel. The work is of Norman times, very different from what we style Gothic, being rather a bungling imitation of Grecian art; the pannels are formed by rich Mosaic of many colours, disposed in knots and stars; the columns are of precious marble; the choir is inlaid with square and oval plates of verde antico, porphyry and serpentine;

pentine; the great altar, decorated in the same barbarous but splendid manner, has on each side a beautiful green and white marble column. The present archbishop has erected a mausoleum near it, for the future reception of his own body, opposite the chapel and tomb of Hildebrand, who filled the chair of St. Peter, by the name of Gregory the Seventh, and died in the year 1085. This haughty pontiff made all the princes of Christendom tremble at his frown, and bow their necks before the footsteps of his throne; but at length being driven from Rome by the imperial faction, was forced to throw himself into the arms of Robert Guiscard: the crafty prince protected him from further insult, and treated him with every empty mark of respect, but kept him confined at Salerno, like a fierce tyger, too dangerous to be suffered any more to roam at large. The violence of a spirit irritated by the agonies of disappointment preyed upon his constitution and hastened his death. He was canonized by Gregory XIII. and passes for a great saint at Rome and Salerno, but the celebration of his festival has long been prohibited at Naples, and the rest of the Roman catholic world has never shewn any inclination to acknowledge his claim to beatitude.

Beneath the church is a chapel, ornamented in a very puerile taste, with marble arabesques. The bones of St. Matthew the evangelist are here enshrined in a silver altar. There is scarce a cathedral in the kingdom without the
body

body of some apostle or patriarch, nor any without a similar subterraneous chapel peculiarly dedicated to him.

On the stairs that lead to this sumptuous crypta, is an antique bas relief of men carrying sacks of corn out of a ship, and an inscription which shews how essential the ancients thought pious donations, prayers, and burning of lamps were to the welfare and happiness of departed spirits.

HAVE SEPTIAAASITTIBI
TERRAEVIS QVISQV
HVIC TVMVAO POSVITARDENTE
AVCERNAMIAAIVS CINERES
AVREATERRATEGAT,

The Greek lambda introduced into this epitaph, shews that it was cut by an artist of a country where the Latin tongue was familiar only to the higher class of citizens, while the inferior sort were more conversant with Greek.

The same attachment to departed friends used to manifest itself at Salerno in a very extraordinary manner, till a provincial synod held in the fifteenth century condemned and abolished the practice. On the eve of All Souls it was customary to provide a sumptuous entertainment and beds in every house, that the souls from purgatory might come, make merry, and afterwards take a nap; during the whole night the house was abandoned by its inhabitants, and that family was looked upon as accursed by Heaven, on whose table the smallest remnant of victuals was to be seen the next morning when the proprietors returned; this dreaded event

seldom, if ever, befel them, for the expected feast drew together all the thieves in the country, who went from house to house, revelling without controul, and carrying off what they had not time to consume, while the master of the house was on his knees in the cold church.

The Olivetan monks have an ancient church, consisting of a large chancel and isles, separated from it by rows of antique columns of different sorts and sizes; the isles are remarkable for having their roof quite flat and level with the entablement of the colonnade. This is exactly the plan for a temple so much recommended by Father Laugier, a very ingenious though rather whimsical writer upon architecture. The pavement abounds with inscriptions, and on the wall is the epitaph of master Peter Barliardus, whose story is recorded in a printed paper below it. Though it be a childish tale, the universal belief it meets with at Salerno entitles it to a place in an account of that city.

He was a famous schoolmaster, ninety-five years old, consequently a great magician. One day three of his grandchildren, who were under his tuition, happened to meet with his conjuring book, and to read aloud a cabalistical passage in it; at this powerful summons the devils appeared to know their pleasure, and frightened the boys to death. When Peter came home and saw the fatal catastrophe of his family, he evoked his infernal spirits and chided them for having killed the children; but the imps
I proved

proved their innocence clearly, and the accident brought the old wizard to so speedy and lively a sense of his crimes, that in a fit of compunction he instantly seized his pernicious books, and kneeling before the door of this church, burnt them all to ashes; a fountain bubbled up immediately on the spot, and runs to this day in commemoration of the event; Peter having still doubts of his salvation, begged a crucifix, which hung before him, to give him some sign of forgiveness, and lo! the image opened its eyes, bent its head forwards, and the old man dropt down dead overwhelmed with joy and contrition.

Not far from this legend is an ancient sarcophagus, adorned with hunting subjects; the prior having previously enquired of my servant if I was a Frenchman, and finding that I was not one, informed me that it contained the bones of John of Procida, who planned the Sicilian vespers. But as that patriot died at Rome, and as Salerno was in the possession of his mortal enemies, I doubt the truth of the assertion.

In an adjoining yard is a large marble relievo representing the Roman fasces disposed in a saltire; I was told it was taken from the walls of a ruin, called the Prætor's palace. I suppose it was fixed as an ensign of dignity in the front of a public tribunal or the residence of a magistrate.

SECTION XVII.

IT was then the time of holding the great fair of Salerno, to which many foreign vessels resort laden with bale goods, metals, groceries, salt fish, and hardware; the shop-keepers of all the country that lies to the south and east come to purchase a stock for the ensuing winter. The fair is kept on the beach, and enjoys many immunities; by a bill pasted upon the gates, all common prostitutes who intend to ply for hire during the fair, are enjoined to appear before the magistrates, declare their profession, and pay ten carlini a head for a licence.

Salerno is accounted a place of bad air in summer, which proceeds from the rice grounds, the mephitic vapours exhaled in the valley behind it, and its confined situation impervious to the northern breezes; it is consequently never cleared of its foulness by that sharp salubrious wind, while the south wind, whenever it prevails long, brings up most pernicious miasms from the plains. The Salernitans treat this as a mere fable, but no stranger, if he be wise, will try the experiment; should he have occasion to visit this part of the country in summer or autumn, I would advise him to sleep at Vietri. There the air is pure, elastic, and sweet, whereas that of Salerno must in some degree be unwholesome; when I arrived near the gates, I felt an immediate heaviness, an oppression on the breast, and soon a benumbing

benumbing pain in my head ; these disagreeable symptoms lasted till I returned to the high grounds, in which I found present relief, and freedom of respiration.

The history of Salerno forms an interesting portion of the general one of Italy, during the space of time which is known by the appellation of the middle ages. Before that period it was seldom mentioned, though a Roman colony.

In the division of the Lombard conquests it became a part of the territories governed by the dukes of Benevento.

Salerno acquired the splendour of a separate sovereignty by the decline of Benevento. In the ninth century, Siconulph and Radelchis fought for the ducal crown, and at last agreed to compromise their differences ; an equal partition of the dominions was the result of the negociation, and from that epocha are dated the appellations of Hither and Nether principality. The princes descended from Siconulph, to whose lot Salerno fell, governed it during a space of two hundred years with many vicissitudes of glory and disgrace ; some of them prescribed laws to the neighbouring states of Naples and Amalfi, and took the lead of the other Lombard potentates, but some also found themselves obliged to yield to superior force and policy. These intestine troubles gave the Greeks and Saracens, their natural enemies, very great advantages over them, and reduced Guaiamar the Second to the fatal necessity of purchasing the assistance of the Norman adventurers ; the fable of the
flag

flag and the horse was realized in the unfortunate princes of Salerno, for their deliverers soon became their conquerors, notwithstanding all the ties of alliance and friendship. In 1076, Robert Guiscard dispossessed Gisulphus the Second of his principality, and annexed it to the duchy of Puglia.

The Salernitans did not bear the yoke with submission, but shewed a constant readiness to join any party that was likely to ease them of it; their conduct drew upon them a multitude of disasters. To keep this turbulent spirit within bounds by the awe of their presence, the Norman kings were wont to spend much of their time in this city, which contributed greatly to its embellishment; their Lombard princes had done a great deal towards its aggrandisement, and the succeeding race followed their example, by erecting churches and other considerable edifices; most of these works were humbled to the dust by the vindictive hand of the emperor Henry the Sixth. During his contest with Tancred for the Sicilian crown, the people of Salerno had taken the empress Constantia prisoner, and delivered her up to Tancred. Had the Sicilian prince been as bloody minded as the German, her life would have been in danger, or if spared, would have remained a pledge for the security of the actual possessor of the throne; but the descendant of the Norman heroes disdained so unmanly an advantage, and released the empress from her confinement. When Tancred died, and the Swabian cause prevailed,
Henry

Henry recalled to mind the insult, and laid Salerno in ashes. His son Frederick seems to have been ambitious of wiping away the traces of his father's vengeance, and to have honoured Salerno with many tokens of his regard and protection. The attention of Manfred was also particularly directed towards this place; perceiving that the bay from its openness was unfit for the great purposes of traffic, he employed his favourite minister, John of Procida, in erecting a mole to break the force of the winds and waves. This work has been long swept away, but an inscription in the cathedral records the undertaking.*

Nothing has contributed so much to the renown of Salerno as its school of physic, which owed its foundation to the revolution occasioned in the sciences by the arrival of the Arabians in Europe; they brought with them, in the eighth and ninth centuries, a taste for learning into Italy, where the darkest ignorance had long overspread the land. Those Mahometans seem at that period to have possessed the only reasonable learning that was left, and to have improved in that particular the people among whom they made a settlement; it appears that, by their example, they raised a degree of emulation in the long torpid minds

* + A. D. MCCLX Dominus Manfredus, magnificus rex Siciliæ, Domini Imperatoris Frederici filius, cum interventu domini Joannis de Procida, magni civis Salernitani, domini insulæ Procidæ, tramontis Caiani, et baroniæ Postilionis, ac ipsius domini regis focii et familiaris hunc pontem fieri fecit.

of men *, and that this desire of improvement brought together several studious men and scholars to Salerno, where an university was formed with professors in various sciences and languages. Charlemagne contributed to its establishment, or at least gave encouragement to its members; it therefore boasts of greater antiquity than the universities of Paris or Bologne. Constantine the African, a man of high reputation as a practitioner of the medical art, took refuge in the court of Robert Guiscard, and obtained the esteem and confidence of that hero; Alfamus, archbishop of Salerno, a prelate of considerable knowledge, was another of his patrons. To their influence may be ascribed the additional privileges bestowed upon this seminary of learning, and to these encouragements the spirit with which the scholars prosecuted their labours. In 1100, the members of this school published a collection of rules for preserving and restoring health, a work that was crowned with the applauses of that and the succeeding ages; it was composed in Leonine verses, and dedicated to Robert duke of Normandy, son of William the conqueror of England; that young prince was then actually resident at Salerno, where he had put himself under the care of the physicians, in order to be cured of a wound he had received from a poisoned arrow in the wars of Palestine. His wife, Sybilla of

* At that period the study of natural history, physic and mathematics was known in Europe by the name of Saracenic studies.

Conversano is said to have sucked the poison out of the wound, and to have given this bright example of courage and conjugal attachment, which Eleanor, the wife of our Edward the First, followed on a similar occasion. Perhaps the latter story has been fabricated in imitation of the former one.

The succeeding princes of the line of Hauteville were equally munificent and attentive in their patronage of this school, which all the cotemporary authors agree in styling the most famous college in the known world; so proud was Salerno of the merits of her medical sons, that, on her common seal, she assumed the title of the city of Hippocrates. Frederick the Second of Swabia was too learned, and too sensible of the great benefits accruing from the cultivation of the sciences not to afford a most distinguished protection to so good an establishment; his grants were more ample and honourable than those of his predecessors.

The school continued to flourish in great glory, and to produce men highly esteemed in their profession, till physic began in the fourteenth century to be generally practised by the clergy and the religious orders. By degrees, these interlopers, who derived many advantages from their sacred character, and their sway over the minds of the people, ingrossed the practice, and ruined the lay professors; the schools were no longer followed, and medical knowledge was no longer to be sought for out of the cloyster. From these causes and others not so clearly stated by the

authors that have been at the pains to trace the science through all its revolutions, the School of Salerno sank into oblivion and neglect. The art of healing has since that æra worked its way imperceptibly towards the more northern regions of Europe, where profound reasoning and meditation, chymistry and experimental philosophy, have made many very happy improvements in the medical system.

The Angevine kings gave the title of prince of Salerno to their eldest sons ; that of duke of Calabria was afterwards substituted into its room, when the exigencies of the state and civil dissensions had rendered it necessary to alienate this great fief. It became feudal in the person of Jordan Colonna, nephew to pope Martin the fifth, who was invested with it in the year 1419. Fourteen years after, it was granted to Raymund Orfini, earl of Nola, and, in the reign of Ferdinand the First, was bestowed upon Robert Sanseverino, earl of Marsico. In his posterity it continued for some generations, till in the time of Charles the Fifth it was forfeited for high treason by Ferrante the last prince, with the greatest part of the vast possessions of that powerful and turbulent family.

SECTION XVIII.

I H I R E D a boat and left Salerno at four in the morning; the pilot being apprehensive of a rough sea kept constantly within a cable's length of the shore, which is very low; at ten he landed me at the tower of Pesto, thirty miles distant from Salerno. After walking near a quarter of a mile over a sandy down, I arrived at the west gate of the ancient city of Pæstum, a colony of Dorian Greeks, restored and augmented by the Sybarites. Its oldest name was Sisti-lis, which was afterwards changed to Possidonia; the name of Pæstum seems to date no higher than the time of its becoming subject to the Romans. It was made a Roman colony 272 years before Christ. With the loss of liberty it parted with its importance; the only thing that gave it any celebrity amid the numerous possessions of that all-conquering people, was its rose; the Pæstan rose, from its peculiar fragrancy, and the singularity of blowing twice a year, is often mentioned with predilection by the classic poets; * the wild rose which now shoots up among the ruins is of the small single damask kind

* Biferique rosaria Pæsti.—Virg.

Odorati rosaria Pæsti.—Propert.

Prataque nec bifero cessura rosaria Pæsti—Martial. &c.

with a very high perfume ; as a farmer assured me on the spot, it flowers both in spring and autumn.

The desolation of this city was occasioned either by the frequent invasions of the Saracens, who made a strong settlement in the neighbourhood at Agropoli, once a kind of citadel to Pæstum, or from the increasing perniciousness of its air. The quantity of sulphureous and stagnated waters must at all times have rendered this plain unwholesome, but when the inroads of those barbarous enemies had depopulated the city, and deprived the few remaining inhabitants of the power of maintaining the drains, and continuing their usual course of husbandry, the noxious tendency must have gained such a head as to make this district the seat of pestilence.*

We have very little acquaintance with the history of the Pæstans, who being far removed from the other Grecian colonies interfered but seldom in their quarrels, and appear to have united with the surrounding nations of barbarians at an earlier period than any of their countrymen. It was usual for the Pæstans, at the celebration of an annual festival, to lament and weep that they were thus banished from their native Grecian shores, and become no better than barbarians ; but in the next minute to rejoice that in this situation they enjoyed protection, peace, and abun-

* Strabo and Martial take notice of the unwholesomeness of this situation.

dance of all good things.* Their medals denote a degeneracy from Grecian skill and elegance, being more clumsily designed and executed than most coins of Sicily and Magna Græcia; but in their buildings they displayed the true Grecian solidity and majesty of taste. Few cities have left such noble proofs of their magnificence, such monuments of their architecture. The private habitations of its citizens were not able to resist the dilapidations of so many revolving ages, but the town wall is almost entire, and incloses an æra about three miles in circumference;

* Numi Possidonium sive Pæstorum.

Ex Auro. 1. In duplici quadrâ, vinea racemis onusta ΓΟΣΕΙ-ΔΩΝΕΑ-TAN—Dimidium equi ΓΟΣΕΙ.

Ex Argento

1. Neptuneus trid. vib. ad talos fol. ΠΟΜ—Bos ΠΟΜ.
2. Incusus. Nept. trid. vib. palliatus ΠΟΜ.
3. Nept. trid. vib. ΠΟΜ—Bos ΩΔΙΕΜΟΝ.
4. Delphin hordei gran. et aplustre ΣΙΣΤΥΛΙΣ—Cap. imb. pl. vultu.

Ex Ære.

1. Cap. Minervæ gal.—Neptuneus trid. vib. ΠΟΣΕ:
2. Nept. ΠΟΣΕΙΔΑ—Bos delph. ΠΟΣΕΙΔΑ.
3. Leo gradiens—Cornucopiæ ΠΑΕΣ.
4. Cap. viril. barb diad.—Delphin ΠΑΙΣ:
5. Cap. Apoll. 4 glob—Cornucop. caduer 4 glob. ΠΑΙΣ.
6. Idem.—Aper. ΠΑΙΣ
7. Id.—Canis ΟΣ ΠΑΙΣ.
8. Cap. vir. bab. Laur. delphîn.—Cupido delph. inf. de cor. 3 toid. ΠΑΙ-ΣΤΑΝΟ.
9. Cap. Dianæ—Spicæ ΠΑΙΣ
10. In circulo quadra 4 glob. ΓΑΕΣΤ—Cornucop. cum fulmine, Reliqui Coloniz Romanæ.

in many places it is nearly of the original height, and built with oblong stones dug out of the adjacent fields; they are a real travertino, formed by a sediment of sulphureous water, of which a strong stream washes the foot of the walls; it comes from the mountains, and spreading itself over the flat, forms pools, where the buffalos are continually wallowing in summer up to their noses.

The gates are placed in the center of each side of the quadrangle, and a great street may yet be traced in a line from the north to the south gate; on its eastern side stand the remains of the principal civil and religious edifices. Nearest to the south wall is a quadrilateral building with nine columns in each front and eighteen on each side, reckoning those of the angles for both; the architrave is whole all round, and so are some pieces of the frieze, but without any of the distinctive ornaments of the Doric order. These columns are much tapered, and project considerably in the middle; their diameter at bottom is six feet, and at the top of the shaft four feet six inches; the ovolo of the capital rests upon annulets, adorned with leaves, the center column is differently carved from the rest; the abacus is plain and high. The colonnade without base, and supported by a triple socle. This edifice is divided into two equal parts by a row of similar pillars that run down the middle of the whole length, answering to the center column of the pronaos; the inner range of the pronaos consists of three columns and two pilasters, swelling in the
2 middle

middle as the columns do, but crowned with a capricious ornament, not unlike an Ionic capital; the flutings and proportions of the whole building belong to the noblest style of the Doric order. The stone was slightly stuccoed over to hide its holes and defects. This edifice was most probably appropriated to the service of the public, either as a commercial exchange, a court of justice, or a senate house; the majesty of this ruin must excite admiration, even in those whose taste inclines them to relish only that luxuriant and ornamental species of architecture in which the ancient Romans delighted, and in which their successors, the modern Romans, have suffered their genius and imagination to wanton almost without bounds; an eye that brightens only with the view of nice Corinthian foliage, and the minute members of the composite order, will perhaps receive no delectable impression from the sight of such massive proportions, such simple and solid parts as these. An observer must have reflected seriously on the art, and weighed the purposes of each building, with the intention of the architect, before he can bring himself to allow these noble remains of antiquity the praise they so richly deserve. *

* After I returned from the country south of Naples and from Sicily, where I had seen nothing remarkable in architecture but old Doric temples, I thought the best buildings of a different style and order, pretty, but delicate to excess. It was like turning from the transfiguration of Raphael to a miniature of Petitot.

At a small distance towards the north is the most capital building of Pæstum, a temple of the kind called pseudo-dipteros, having six columns in the fronts, and fourteen on the sides, including those of the angles. The pronaos is composed of two columns and two pilasters, without any swelling. The walls of the cella, now almost destroyed, were carried in a line from the pilasters; with the columns of the pronaos, which are higher and larger than those of the perystile, ranges a colonnade, supporting a row of smaller columns. These walls and colonnade divided the cella into three walks, and together with the perystile bore the roof upon a level. The outer columns are six feet in diameter, and thirty in height; they have twenty-four very sharp flutings, and their intercolumniations measure seven feet. The pediments and entablements are almost entire, and of a solemn massy proportion; the architect has not suffered his plan to be cramped by the ordinary rules of the Doric order, but has extended his metopes in breadth at the angles in order to place the triglyphs at the corner.

This is one of the noblest monuments of antiquity we have left; though built in a style few modern architects will adopt, it may perhaps serve to inspire them with sublime ideas, and convince them how necessary to true grandeur in architecture are simplicity of plan, solidity in proportions, and greatness of the component members; they may perhaps discover that a profusion of ornaments rather
 I diminishes

diminishes the general effect of a large building than adds to its real dignity, and that the Greeks and Romans acted upon wise principles when they raised their great public buildings, in a plain grave taste, reserving for small edifices that high finishing, which is more expressive of elegance than majesty,

Following the same line, I came to the ruins of a smaller temple entirely overturned; from the fragments of its entablature and capitals, I presume the date of its construction was much posterior to that of the above-mentioned buildings; the frieze was adorned with foliage and figures; it had pilasters as well as columns.

Near it are the remains, or rather vestiges, of a small amphitheatre.

The last ruin towards the north is a temple of six columns in front, and thirteen in flank, of a smaller proportion than those of the other temple, to which this is also inferior in architectonic merit; it has no remains of vestibule or cella, and, like all the other buildings, was stuccoed over.

Not many years are elapsed since Pæstum began to engage the attention of the literary world; the first publishers of its views inform us that an accidental visit of a painter to a town in the neighbourhood rescued these ruins from oblivion; but we are not therefore to suppose that Pæstum had remained unknown, buried deep in impervious forests, and hidden for ages from the sight of man; it certainly never

was furrounded with wood; and between the walls and the sea, a bare sandy down reigns along the coast. The pillars of Pesto have long been, and are to this day, a landmark for sailors, and are seen, as I can witness, from every part of the extensive gulph of Salerno. I am sorry to destroy Mr. Brydone's hopes that some magnificent heap of ruins will hereafter be discovered among the forests of Calabria; the situation of almost all its ancient Greek cities is ascertained; from my own knowledge and the information of the natives, who are well acquainted with the recesses of their wildernesses, and by no means inattentive to the remains of antiquity, I may venture to affirm that there is not a shadow of probability that any discoveries of that kind can be made in Calabria. Pandosia and Tempa are the only towns which antiquaries differ in placing, and neither of them was of such note, as to promise any very superb ruins, if by chance they should have remained concealed from all eyes to the present time.

I was busily employed in drawing and measuring, when the boatman came to inform me that the sea was exceedingly ruffled by a strong north-west wind lately sprung up, and that it would be impossible to put out the boat again before night. As it was yet dangerous to sleep on that shore, I procured a caleſſo from the neighbouring town of Capaccio, and returned by land. The country is flat, loamy, and arable; the passage of the river Silari, in a
crazy

crazy wherry, was attended with some danger and a great deal of delay.

The forest of Persano had a fine effect along the horizon. The king frequently resides in his palace of Persano, because its woods are better stocked with game than any other of his chases. There is in them a beautiful breed of white deer with brown ears; it was found some years ago to have increased to such an extent, that for the relief of the husbandman the king thought proper to destroy a great number of them. Above two thousand head of deer were shot in a few weeks; the country people were surfeited with venison, and ships laden with the skins.

At Vicenza I joined the post-road, near the spot where Picentum stood, the ancient capital of the country, and about ten at night I reached Vietri.

R E T U R N.

F R O M

P Æ S T U M.

S E C T I O N XIX.

THE following days were devoted to a ramble among the woods and mountains, on horseback and on foot, without laying down any regular plan; the first object of my curiosity was the Palombiera, or the station for netting wild pidgeons, a diversion most eagerly pursued by the citizens of La Cava, who dedicate this season of the year to feasting and merry meetings. They assemble in parties, and if any stranger chances to stray to their rendezvous, give him a most cordial welcome. I am not in the least surprised at their passionate fondness for this sport, as I found it extremely bewitching, keeping the attention constantly alive and the springs of the mind pleasingly agitated

tated by expectation; the situations where the toils are spread are incomparably beautiful, the air is pure and balsamic, and every thing around breathes health and satisfaction.

When the periodical flights of flock-doves return from the northern and western parts of Europe to gain warmer regions for their winter abode, the fowler repairs to the mountain and spreads his nets across the intermediate hollows, the passes through which the birds direct their course, to avoid unnecessary elevation in their flight. These nets are hung upon a row of large trees planted for the purpose — The branches being very thick and close at top, and the bole lofty and bare, a great opening is left below for the toils, which reach to the ground, and, by means of pulleys, fall in a heap with the least effort. Sometimes they are extended upon poles that exceed the height of the trees. At a small distance is a lofty circular turret, like a column with a little capital or cap, upon which a man is stationed to watch the approach of the game. As he commands a free view over all the country, and practice has made his sight as acute as that of the lynx, he descries the birds at a wonderful distance. The doves advance with great velocity, but the alert watchman is prepared for them, and, just as they approach his post, hurls a stone above them with a sling; upon this the whole flock, whose fears have birds of prey for their great object, supposing the stone to be an enemy of that kind ready to pounce them, dart down like

2

lightning

lightning to avoid the blow by passing under the trees ; but there they rush into the jaws of death by dashing against the net, which instantly drops and so entangles them that not one of them can escape the active hands of the fowler. These birds are sometimes taken by dozens at one fall, and are accounted fine eating. The dexterity with which the slingers manage their weapon is very remarkable ; they throw the stone to a great height without any violent effort, and even without whirling the sling round before they discharge the pellet.*

The view from the Palombiera of Vietri is replete with exquisite beauties ; if the spectator direct his sight towards the north, he commands La Cava, its numerous hamlets, and immense tracks of wood that clothe the sides of the towering mountains, and through an opening catches a glimpse of the smoking top of Vesuvius, with the long line of plains forming the horizon behind it ; if he turn to the south, Salerno presents itself almost at his feet with all its charming environs ; the nearer eminences abound with aged timber, among which the rich verdure of the Spanish chestnut predominates, though interspersed with fine common and evergreen oaks : the ground at their foot is hidden beneath thickets of beautiful shrubs. The arbutus, laurustinus, myrtle, and numberless other sorts flourish in this

* In the Pyrenean mountains, where the same diversion is followed, the watchmen use a bow and arrow, trimmed with the feathers of a hawk.

happy

happy soil. The large-leaved maple, black alder, hornbeam and ash, are not uncommon in these forests.

From this delightful station I directed my course down the mountain to the pleasant village of Molina, and finished my ride by a rural dinner. The scene of my repast was a sequestered valley, over-shaded by thick woods and high impending rocks; their brow is jagged with long stalactites formed by the filtration of the water; a clear rivulet flows out of a cavern at their foot.

On the second day of my ramble I climbed the mountain that runs towards the west, but first I descended to the Marina of Vietri, a considerable town joined to Vietri by a continued narrow line of houses: the productions of La Cava that are destined for exportation are here put on board small vessels. This place was known in antiquity by the name of Marciana, perhaps derived from that of Trajan's sister. It is said that many statues and curiosities were found here some years ago, but that the bishop of La Cava having Heathen images in abhorrence, ordered them to be broken and buried in the foundations of a house he was then building.

From hence I ascended slowly for some hours through hamlets hanging on the mountainsides, commanding most delightful views of the bay, and through extensive woods of chestnut trees to Dronea, a small convent of Dominicans above La Cava. A friar and a lay brother, the only inhabitants of this retired hermitage, provided me with breakfast.

fast. From this halting place I travelled up the woods, over rugged rocks and amidst precipices, to a monastery of Camaldoli, dedicated to Santa Maria l'Avocata. The atmosphere was unfortunately so enveloped in clouds that it was but at momentaneous intervals, when gusts of wind broke the veil, that I was indulged with a glimpse of the coast and mountains; in vain for me did the sun illumine the country below; I could seldom even perceive how brilliantly those scenes were gilded by his rays.

The prior and his assistant received me very courteously, and offered me the monastic fare their house afforded. I accepted the invitation, and sat down with great readiness to a frugal repast of maccaroni and greens. Whether hunger had banished all Epicurean delicacy of palate, or the things were uncommonly good in their kind, I certainly found a great relish in this homely meal.

After dinner I wandered into the woods, where the monks have cut walks in the side of the mountain, exactly in the same natural style that a Brown would have adopted had he been called upon to lay out a similar situation. The clouds for some time obstructed all prospect, but towards evening they were dispersed, and afforded me the enjoyment of a most surprising view. I appeared to look down from another region, through an opening in the vaults of the heavens.

The convent occupies the point of a promontory projecting from the mountain, and has so steep a fall on the
three

three other sides, that I shuddered on the first look downwards. The Sorrentine mountains lay all within sight, tumbled in rude majestic confusion; towns and villages seemed like dots in a map, and the bounds of the sea were lost in the sky.

The Camaldoli are sent hither by rotation from other convents; they lead a hard life, and, for every purpose of human and national benefit, a very useless one; they are fully satisfied that it is of the utmost advantage to themselves in particular, as they thereby become more acceptable to the Deity, and also to the public at large, by the efficacy of their prayers, which stop the uplifted scourge before it reaches the heads of guilty mortals. Their orisons are almost incessant, and application to study is not allowed; indeed they are effectually prevented from pursuing it by seven summonses to church in twenty-four hours, and by a custom of pausing and meditating at each verse of their office. They however enjoy the liberty of walking out with greater latitude than the Carthusians, and look healthy. The air of this place is very pure, but is cruelly disturbed with thunder storms, especially in winter, at which season not a week passes without some part of the buildings being struck with lightning. The monks affect to treat it with great contempt, relying boldly on the protection of the Madonna; yet they acknowledged to me that very lately a priest had been struck down at the altar, and a lay brother killed. The winds are so boisterous and

cutting, that neither flowers nor fruit can be raised, therefore the gardens belonging to each cell are stocked with cabbages only; sometimes the blast oversets the lay-brothers as they cross the court with the dinner for the monks, and sweeps away the basket with the provisions. Snow lies here half the year. The possessions of the monastery yield about two thousand ducats annually, (£375) and agents in the cities along the coast supply it daily with fish and other necessaries. Women are allowed to enter the inclosure only on two days in the year; all male pilgrims and travellers are lodged and fed during three days, and as the sea is sometimes too rough to allow a passage to Amalfi and other places by water, this house is of infinite service to passengers, being situated on the only practicable road across the mountains.

In the afternoon I walked down to Majuri, a town containing five thousand inhabitants, situated on the shore at the mouth of a deep valley; the torrent that has worn this hollow does frequent damage, and often sweeps away both gardens and houses. The higher parts of the mountains that inclose this valley abound in evergreen oaks of a diminutive size; coppice wood clothes the sides; vines, and hanging gardens of orange trees fill up the lower region. The people of Majuri are active and industrious, trading in fruits of their own growth, and in macaroni made with wheat which they draw from Puglia: by their skilful method of compounding and kneading the flour, or from
some

some peculiar excellence in the water and climate, they make the best *paste* in the kingdom.

I was admitted into a garden belonging to a gentleman now on his travels; which I viewed with great delight, as it is adorned in a style happily adapted to the situation and climate. The mansion is neat and airy, the gardens intersected by canals of limpid water, that either runs in strong streams amidst rich scented parterres, or tumbles in cascades through grottos of shell-work and shady bowers. In his menagerie I was surprised to find two black cocks and three grey hens in fine feather and health, notwithstanding the warmth of this climate, which seems ill suited to the constitution of a bird that delights in lofty mountains and cold morasses. Their food here is millet and the green leaves of the lettuce and other plants that grow within their pen. These birds were brought from the Genoese mountains above the gulph of Spezzia.

SECTION XX.

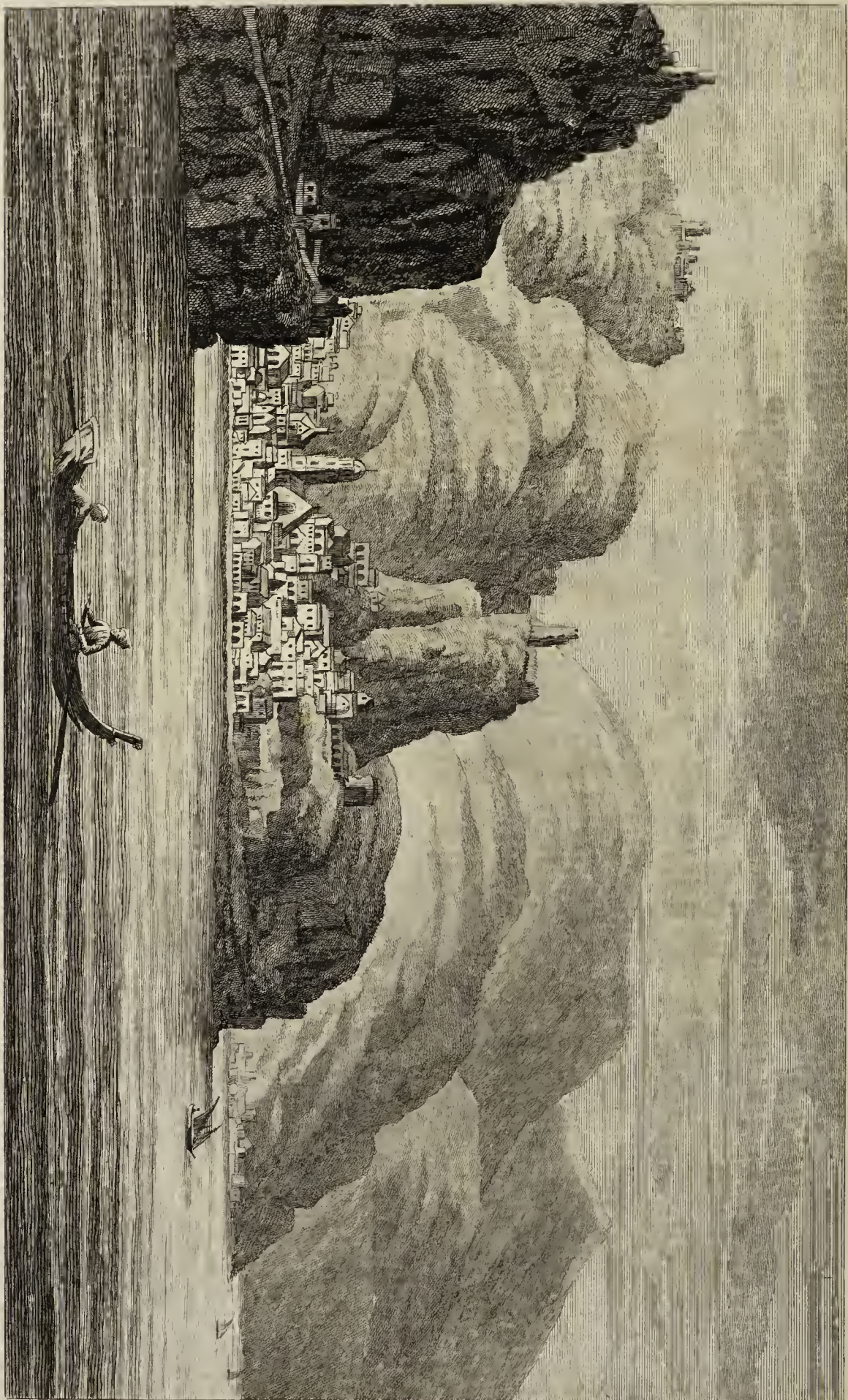
NEXT day, at eight o'clock in the morning, I went to sea in a six-oared barge. The day was mild and rather cloudy, the sea perfectly smooth and of a dark blue colour: the view of the coast sublime, the lofty mountains seemed to rise out of the bosom of the waves, covered with verdure to the very summit, except some

rocky pinnacles that served to vary the landscape. Half way down their sides I discerned many villages scattered thicker and thicker as the eye descends, till near the bottom the surface is quite covered with white houses and orange groves ; on the boldest and most towering points, convents and churches are placed, and in the deep dales that split the mountainous ridge, are jammed the four principal towns of the coast. The shore is rocky and bold, turned in many romantic forms, with dark caves, paths and buildings hanging in a tremendous manner over the brow, while beneath lies a noble expanse of sea, enlivened by crowds of light skiffs scudding across its surface. Near Majuri is a large cavern full of stalactites, which being broken from the roof are tossed about by the waves till they are smoothed and rounded : they are of a milky whiteness and well polished, and resemble the concretions called confetti di Tivoli. We passed before Minuri, a smaller town also dealing in macaroni, formerly the dock-yard of Amalfi ; then doubling a promontory we lay on our oars to contemplate the town of Atrani, which is squeezed in between two cliffs joined together by buildings ; a road winds up this valley to * Ravello

* This place was founded in the eleventh century by some refugees from Amalfi, and therefore called Ravello from the word rebelles. It was plundered in 1137, by the Imperialists. Many Neapolitan families are said to have come from hence.

and

J. G. Smith del.



J. P. Marshall sculp.

View of AMLIFY and its Coasts.

and * Scala, two episcopal cities, or rather straggling villages, on the mountain tops.

I soon arrived at the city of Amalfi; its buildings are not remarkable for elegance or size, and contain at most four thousand inhabitants, who seem to be in a poor line of life. Amalfi is but a shadow of what it was in its flourishing state, when it extended over the stupendous rocks that hang on each side still crowned with battlemented walls and ruined towers. It presents few objects that can recall any idea of its ancient prosperity. The cathedral is in the least agreeable of those styles of architecture that were invented or adopted in the barbarous ages, when Grecian rules and proportions were forgotten. The steeple is one of the ugliest of its kind, and the portico has not even Gothic lightness. Two grand antique columns of red Egyptian granite placed at the entrance of the chancel, make the deformity of the surrounding objects more visible. Under the choir is the chapel and tomb of the apostle St. Andrew; in whose honor the edifice was dedicated, when cardinal Capuano in 1208 brought his body from Constantinople. This crypta resembles that of St. Matthew at Salerno in shape and uncouth arrangement of marble ornaments upon the walls.

* Near this place which they had stormed, the prince of Capua, and his allies were routed by king Roger. It was again sacked by the emperor's troops in 1137. These sees are now united under one bishop.

Near the landing place is a low gate, composed of the fragments of an elegant pagan temple. Two beautiful Corinthian capitals, with some pieces of cornice and soffita, are placed as supporters of the arch.

The origin of this archiepiscopal city, which is not mentioned by any historian of the upper empire, is differently accounted for: The opinion most generally received is, that about the middle of the fourth century a considerable number of Roman families, either from private views of emolument, or in consequence of compulsory orders from the emperor, left Rome, and embarked for Constantinople; but, meeting with storms on their passage, were cast away on the shore of Salerno, and deprived of the means of pursuing their voyage. In this state of perplexity they long remained, but at last came to the resolution of settling on the present site of Amalfi; where they expected to enjoy security and sufficient plenty of the necessaries of life.

The first notice its historian, Panfa, has been able to discover, dates no higher than the latter end of the sixth century. Impervious mountains and inaccessible coasts preserved this infant state from the first fury of the Lombards, who seldom attempted the conquest of a maritime people.

In the year 825, when this little republic had, under the patronage of the eastern emperors, attained a degree of wealth and reputation sufficient to excite the ambition

of its neighbours, Sico, prince of Salerno, marched a body of troops by night, and surprized Amalfi: dissensions among the citizens had encouraged and facilitated his enterprize. The conqueror carried off the greatest part of the inhabitants, and compelled them to fix at Salerno, which had lately suffered a great loss of people by an epidemical disorder. This mode of emigration was too oppressive to effect a speedy union, and before the fourth year of their captivity was expired, the Amalfitans took advantage of the absence of the Salernitan chiefs, who were then carrying on a war with the Beneventans, armed themselves, and after burning and plundering Salerno, marched in triumph back to their native abodes; their late masters were in no condition to oblige them to return.

Being thus restored to their country, the Amalfitans framed a better system of government, and reformed many abuses in their former legislation; adopting various measures that were likely to promote internal concord, and defeat the evil intentions of foreign enemies. Their first plan was to vest the supreme authority in a temporary prefect, but the experience of a few years caused them to prefer lodging that power in the hands of a duke elected for the term of his natural life. If prosperity be the test of sage counsels, this alteration was a wise one; for under these governors Amalfi attained the summit of her military and commercial glory. Pope Leo the fourth
found

found the Amalfitans an useful ally in his wars with the infidels, and honoured the commonwealth with the title of Defender of the Faith. The Neapolitans, with whom, as Greek vassals, they were united in strict bonds of friendship, experienced many signal favours at their hands: the Musulmen themselves found it expedient to court their alliance, and to enter into treaty with them.

Their situation had from the beginning given them a turn to commerce, and their attention to naval affairs so much consequence in the eyes of their protector, the emperor of Constantinople, that by his orders a court was established at Amalfi, for the decision of all controversies arising in maritime transactions: its code and reports became the general rule in those cases throughout this part of Europe; its precedents and decrees were allowed to be good authority to found judgment upon, even in foreign tribunals. The merchants of this town engrossed the trade of the Levant, and transacted the commercial business of the world in a lucrative and exclusive manner. The Pisans, Venetians and Genoese rose upon their ruin, and after monopolizing the emoluments of trade for some ages, made way for the more comprehensive and daring spirit of the present maritime powers

The necessities of the eastern nations forced them, in defiance of all religious antipathies, to admit the Amalfitan traders to a free and constant intercourse with them, even during their hottest wars against the other Christians. These
exclusive

exclusive privileges gave the Amalfitans an opportunity of laying the foundation of an establishment that has long been a most painful thorn rankling in the side of the Mahometan potentates : I speak of the order of knighthood instituted under the patronage of St. John of Jerusalem, the members of which were afterwards called knights of Rhodes, and since they were dispossessed of that island, knights of Malta. They owe their existence, as a body, to the favour these merchants enjoyed at the caliph's court, and to their compassion for the pilgrims that visited the sepulchre of Christ, who having neither friend to assist, nor house to receive them, underwent the greatest hardships and dangers during their passage and stay in the Holy Land. The charitable traders obtained leave of the Musulmen chief in 1020, to erect two small hospitals and a chapel for the use of votaries coming from the western parts of Europe. Many zealous persons devoted themselves to the service of the sick and distressed ; the active Amalfitans undertook to collect alms in Italy, and to remit the necessary supplies for the infant settlement. When the city of Jerusalem fell into the hands of the crusaders, and a greater concourse of pilgrims repaired to the holy shrine, it was esteemed proper not only to provide for their accommodation at the end of their journey, but to secure them a safe passage through countries infested by a cruel and inveterate enemy. Then the humble attendants of the infirmary clothed themselves in armour, and sallied forth in regular

troops to meet and escort the caravans safe across the perilous deserts; then the templars and the hospitalers began to be conspicuous.

To crown the mercantile and naval glory of the republic, it was reserved to the lot of an Amalfitan to make, or at least to perfect, the most important discovery ever made for the improvement of navigation. Pasitano a village, which stands on the shore a few miles west of Amalfi, boasts of having given birth to Flavius Gioia. This man, in the early part of the fourteenth century, constructed the nautical compass, with eight points, and upon the north point fixed a flower de luce, the armorial ensign of his sovereign, who was descended from the kings of France. It is affirmed by some authors that the property in the loadstone of turning towards the north pole was well known long before that æra. In the fifth volume of Monsieur de Buffon's Supplement, or *Epoques de la Nature*, the Chinese are said to have been in possession of this secret above four thousand years, but without ever applying magnetism to any purposes of navigation. He adds that Homer in his *Odyssæy* says that the Greeks employed the compass in navigating their ships to Troy, about the same period of time at which the Chinese have placed their discovery. This last assertion seemed to me so very extraordinary, that I was at the pains of examining scrupulously every part of the *Odyssæy*, but could not find any passage that even alluded to such a circumstance; several gentlemen
profoundly

profoundly skilled in the Greek language, who know almost every line of Homer by heart, made the same attempt with the same ill success. I should be sorry to impute a mistake to so eminent a writer merely upon negative proofs, but until the passage be pointed out to me, I must withhold my belief of any such expression existing in Homer.

Some historians are of opinion that the nautical compass was invented about the beginning of the thirteenth century, improved and rendered proper for the service of navigation by Gioia about an hundred years after. The reign of Edward the Third is the epocha at which we can fix with any certainty its being commonly used. I believe a very imperfect idea of the virtues of the magnetic needle existed before the year 1302; the principles were not unknown; but there still hung a veil over them, which hindered their being thoroughly investigated, though some feeble attempts may have been made towards it. Flavius Gioia no doubt took the hint from some precursory experiments, but was sagacious or fortunate enough to find out the real method of rendering this extraordinary quality of matter beneficial to society.

SECTION XXI.

AMALFI was too flourishing a state, and too tempting an object of conquest to escape the ambitious eye of the Norman princes ; as they never piqued themselves upon the justice of their enterprizes, and were seldom deterred by difficulties, Amalfi had every reason to expect an attack, which could not fail of proving ruinous to a trading nation ; to prevent its bad effects it was agreed by the citizens to make a voluntary surrender of their liberties to Robert Guiscard.

The Normans proving harsh masters, and an opportunity offering for regaining their independance, the Amalfitans rose in arms against duke Roger, and after many sufferings had the satisfaction of seeing him raise the siege of their city, which he had long blockaded with a considerable force. The holy war, which was then looked upon as the common cause of Christendom, may in this instance be said to have made the Amalfitans some return for their zeal in behalf of the pilgrims and sojourners in Palestine ; for it was a summons to the crusado that drew off the greatest part of the besiegers, and procured the deliverance of the town. In the year 1100 the duke found means by bribing and sowing dissentions among the inhabitants to repossess himself of this state, and to abolish even the shadow

dow of its republican constitution. From this period Amalfi became lost to its former connections, and exposed to the attacks of every power at variance with its new masters. The prince of Capua, the Pisans, and the Germans laid it waste at different times. The pillage by the Pisans forms a very interesting epocha for all nations that have modelled their jurisprudence upon the institutions of the Roman law, for they carried away the Pandects, * a copy of the code which was compiled by order of Justinian the First; this table had been brought as a curiosity from Greece, by a merchant, but had not obtained any authority at Amalfi where the Theodosian code was in force. The other states in the south of Italy were either governed by the maxims of the Lombards, or had compiled a mixed system of Gothic, Greek, Roman, and Norman laws. The Pandects were no sooner arrived in Tuscany, than the emperor Lotharius, who was persuaded that their spirit was favourable to his interests, employed Irnerius to revise and arrange them, and then he ordered them to be read and taught in all schools throughout his dominions. Accursius afterwards reduced them to their present form of codices and digests, and such has been their success, that in almost every part of Europe they have entirely superseded, or at least prevailed over the Celtic traditional modes of judgment, the Lombard customs, and in short over the insti-

* Pandectæ; (in Latin digestæ) so called from their embracing the whole circle of jurisprudence.

tutes of all the various conquering nations of the north, that divided the Roman spoils among them. England alone has constantly refused them admittance into her constitutional jurisprudence. Some of her tribunals indeed, which having inspection in maritime and ecclesiastical cases, may be pronounced of foreign origin, have adopted their spirit and practice: professors of civil and canon law have often attempted to extend their use and powers, but have always met with a vigorous opposition from the nation, which with great justice considers her old common law as the law of freedom, and the rock on which the glorious fabrick of her constitution is founded. The Roman code was the offspring of despotism, nurtured by absolute monarchs, and a venal crew of civilians; how therefore can we expect the delicate plant of liberty should thrive under its shade?

Long before the age of Justinian, the ancient Roman tables, which, altho' in many instances favourable to aristocracy, and inimical to general extensive liberty, were still calculated for a republican government, had undergone great and material changes and mutilations; and surely it cannot be supposed that a committee appointed by the emperor of the east was likely to pay great regard to the welfare of the people in any instance where it clashed with the views and apparent interests of the monarchs. Giannone, and other civilians, launch out into the most rapturous praises of the Justinian code, and think it impossible

ble for any nation to emerge out of barbarism without the helping hand of the civil law, or to maintain due order in its government, if it follows any rules not perfectly consonant to those doctrines.

However predominant the spirit of this system may be in the legal institutes of the two Sicilies, nevertheless, a most material portion of their jurisprudence is derived from the Lombards, French, Goths, and Greeks. In Abruzzo, a mountainous and retired province, the traces of Lombard laws and usages are very conspicuous; but almost every town throughout the kingdom has customs of its own, partaking, more or less, of the nature of the constitutions belonging to the old inhabitants.

The feudal tenure appears to have been introduced by the Lombards into the northern provinces, and into the southern by the Norman conquerors, who were accustomed to it in their native country: Scarce any symptoms of it are to be discerned in the government of the Greeks. The Spanish line of kings made greater alterations in the law of the land than any of the preceding dynasties; and particularly bent their efforts towards eradicating all remains of Lombard institutes.

Commerce, that capricious child of industry, which prospers only when left to the freedom of its own regulations, and certainly droops as soon as touched by the hand of power, however tenderly applied, sickened and withered at Amalfi after the destruction of its liberty.

The

The disorder was incurable, and early in the æra of the Angevines had reached its last stage. Trade was entirely lost to this coast in the reign of Joan the First. The alienation of its lordship to feudal proprietors was no doubt a circumstance that hastened its dissolution. The brother of pope Martin the Fifth, (Colonna,) had the first grant of Amalfi; the Sanseverini the next; then the Orsini acquired possession, and lastly, Piccolomini enjoyed it with the title of duke.

SECTION XXII.

HAVING taken in provisions for dinner, I embarked, and rowed along the shore to a tunny fishery. The season was far advanced, and the business almost finished; but one of the watchmen belonging to it explained to me every part of the machinery.

The nets are spread over a large space of sea by means of cables fastened to anchors, and are divided into several compartments. The entrance is always directed, according to the season, towards that part of the sea from which the fish are known to come. A man placed upon the summit of a rock high above the water, gives the signal of the fish being arrived; for he can discern from that elevation what passes under the waters infinitely better than any person nearer the surface. As soon as notice is given that the shoal

shoal of fish has penetrated as far as the inner compartment, or the chamber of death, the passage is drawn close, and the slaughter begins.

The undertakers of these fisheries pay an acknowledgment to the king, or the lord, upon whose land they fix the main stay, or foot of the tonnara; they make the best bargain they can, and, till success has crowned their endeavours, obtain this leave for a small consideration; but the rent is afterwards raised in proportion to their capture.

The tunny belongs to Linneus's scomber among the thoracici, and enters the Mediterranean about the vernal equinox, travelling in a triangular phalanx, so as to cut the waters with its point, and to present an extensive base for the tides and currents to act against, and impel forwards. These fish repair to the warm seas of Greece to spawn, steering their course thither along the European shores, but, as they return, approach the African coast; the young fry is placed in the van of the squadron as they travel. They come back from the east in May, and abound on the coast of Sicily and Calabria about that time. In autumn they steer northward, and frequent the neighbourhood of Amalfi and Naples; but during the whole season stragglers are occasionally caught.

When taken in May, the usual time of their appearance in the Calabrian bays, they are full of spawn, and their flesh is then esteemed unwholesome, apt to occasion head-

achs and vapours; the milts and roes are particularly so at that season. To prevent these bad effects, the natives fry them in oil, and afterwards salt them. The quantity of this fish consumed annually in the two Sicilies almost exceeds the bounds of calculation. From the beginning of May to the end of October it is eaten fresh, and all the rest of the year it is in use salted. The most delicate part is the muzzle. The belly salted was called tarantellum, and accounted a great delicacy by the Romans; its present name is Surra. The rest of the body is cut into slices, and put into tubs.

We afterwards doubled cape Conca, so called from a village built on the declivity of the mountain. From this point the coast, which had hitherto trended from N. E. to S. W. takes a sudden turn to the N. W. and forms a deep curve; after which it shoots along in a straight line to the Punta di Campanella, and the island of Capri; its extent greatly exceeds the idea I had conceived from an inspection of the maps, and has a much more dreary naked appearance than that part which lies east of Conca. Near the cape is a rock called l'Asciola, entirely composed of a black calcareous stone, free from all mixture of marine exuviae; it seems to constitute the great internal mass of the mountains that line the shore. In the bend lies Passitano. Villages now grew scarce as we approached the main sea. When the passage of Capri began to open upon us, we steered S. W. to the Galli, supposed

supposed to be the Syrenusæ, or islands once inhabited by the Sirens, which Ulysses passed with so much caution and hazard. Great revolutions have been occasioned in their shape, size, and number, by the effects of subterranean fire; and some learned persons go so far as to assert that these rocks have risen from the bottom of the sea since Homer sang his rhapsodies; consequently, that those monsters dwelt on some other spot, probably Sicily or Capri. The tradition of Sirens residing hereabouts is very ancient, and universally admitted; but what they really were, divested of their fabulous and poetical disguise, is not easy to discover. It is remarkable, that all the islands at the points of land, which advance into the seas of Italy, were supposed to be the place of residence, or burial of a Goddess or Siren; from which opinion we may argue, that on those promontories some female sovereign once dwelt in times of which no records are existing. As the ancient Germans and Greeks were wont to pay obedience to persons of the weaker sex, it is not absurd to suppose that the old inhabitants of Italy, perhaps sprung from the same stock, were also accustomed to entrust the sceptre in the hands of a woman; the post she chose for her residence was, no doubt, strongly fortified, and well situated for her piratical subjects to dart out upon, and intercept all vessels that navigated those seas in ages when it was impossible to sail at any considerable distance from land. Thus they may have rendered themselves formidable to

mankind by violence and martial exploits; but it is more natural to vest the power of the Sirens in the arts and corruptions of peace, and more consonant to the idea generally entertained of them. The sweet retreats that abound in the Surrentine peninsula; the enchanting prospects; the plenty of all the necessaries, and even luxuries of life, and the soft temperature of the climate could not fail of attracting strangers: there they must insensibly have acquired a relish for pleasure and indolence that enervated both their bodies and minds, and rendered every other country odious to them. Perhaps, in very remote ages, when Italy was possessed by nations, whose very names are now unknown, there was a period of wealth, elegance, refinement and learning succeeded by ages of barbarism that have effaced all remembrance of it: the subjects of the Sirens may then have excelled in arts and sciences. Their interest and policy might make them superlatively ingenious and industrious in enticing foreigners to their abodes, and equally expert in tainting their rude minds with vice and effeminacy. We have almost certain authority that learning flourished in this part of Europe before the Trojan war, but it was probably in the hands of the priests; the ancient rites practised on the banks of the Avernan lake corroborate this opinion; superstition thus called in to the assistance of vice must have been irresistible, and made it dangerous indeed for an adventurer to land at any port on this coast.

These

These islands are five in number; on the largest is a watch tower, and the next has a deserted hermitage. We went ashore on the principal one in a cove formed by a crack in the great mass of rocks; a crowd of fishermen were come in to dine and dry their nets. The island is only a narrow semicircular ridge covered with a shallow coat of soil; two other little islands and some jagged rocks just peeping above the waves, correspond with this one so as to trace the outline of a volcanical crater. The composition of them all is at top a calcareous rock extremely shaven, tumbled and confused, mixed with masses of breccia, disposed in a most irregular manner; below these is lava, and the deeper the eye follows it, the stronger are the marks of fire; below the surface of the water, and in some places above it, the layers are complete blocks of basalt. Hence it is fair to presume, that central fires have heaved up to light the torrifed substances that originally lay near their focus, with all the intermediate strata that covered them from the sea. The layers incline downwards from east to west; the air seems to have forced its way into part of the mass, while in fusion, and by checking its workings caused many large caverns to be left in it. These islands are uncultivated and uninhabited since the old hermit of St. Antonio died. Myrtle covers most of the surface, but I think figs and capers, of which some plants have sprung up in the crevices of the rock, would grow well.

well here, and furnish a quantity of fruit that might be exchanged for a stock of provisions sufficient to support a few families, and a cistern would contain water enough for their use.

Our pilot, who acted as cook, had provided a most plentiful supply of limpets, prawns, and red mullets, caught while I was examining the rock. The pleasure of the repast was enhanced by the wildness of the scenery.

From hence we bore away for the channel of Capri, and sailed past Donerana, the last hamlet on the south side of cape Campanella. It is famous among mariners for being haunted by evil spirits, who have now possession of the ancient domain of those pagan devils, the Sirens. The vines of Donerana grow between rows of lentiscus, the common plant that over-runs the country. The styptic qualities of this shrub are communicated to the liquor of the vine, which almost causes suffocation, when those that drink much of it lie on their backs, the usual sleeping posture of the Neapolitans. This heavy night-mare always happening to them here, would be sufficient to frighten these ignorant people; but another circumstance increases their terror, their ears are stunned with continual hissings and rattling of pebbles rolling down upon them. The case is this, the inn stands half way up the hill near an immense heap of stones, brought thither by a torrent; and the refuse of supper, which is thrown out upon this heap, draws

draws together a legion of rats who fight for the spoil. These animals make a prodigious squeaking, and in the scuffle drive the loose stones down to the water edge.

We soon doubled the cape, and ran in four hours across the gulph to Naples.

V O Y A G E
T O
S I C I L Y.

MULTA MIHI VIDENTUR ESSE DE SICILIÆ

DIGNITATE, VETUSTATE, UTILITATE DICENDA.

CIC. IN VERREM.

A

GEOGRAPHICAL VIEW

OF THE

KINGDOM OF SICILY.

SECTION XXIII.

SICILY is an island in the Mediterranean sea, adjoining to the southern extremity of Italy, and extends from latitude 36 25, to latitude 38 25, and from longitude 12° 50, to longitude 16 5, east from London. Its greatest length 210 miles, breadth 133, circumference 600, its form triangular.

Situation and extent.

Etna, the largest volcano in Europe ; Erix, or Monte S. Giuliano, Madonia, Erei, Bufamar, Monti di Peloro.

Mountains.

La Giarretta, Fiume falso, Belici, Fiume grande, Fiume di Lentini, Anapo, Fiume di Ragusa, F. di Naro, Platani, F. di Calatabellota, F. di S. Bartolomeo, L'Amiraglio, F. di Nisi.

Rivers.

Biveri.

Lakes.

Islands. Lampedusa, Pantellaria, Lipari, Vulcano, Saline, Ustica Alicudi, Felicudi, Panaria, Stromboli, Favagnana, Levanzo, Barrone, Cardinifi, delle femine.

Number of inhabitants. According to the enumeration made in 1714, it contained 1,133,163 inhabitants, including 40,000 ecclesiastics, and 1,10000 inhabitants of Palermo. In 1615 it contained 1,107,234. In 1505 it contained 488,500, without reckoning the inhabitants of Palermo and Messina.

Provinces. Three, viz. Val di Noto, Val di Mazara, Val Demona. They contain 42 towns belonging to the demesne, and 310 baronial.

Government. It is governed by a viceroy, in whose absence the archbishop of Palermo is regent. The general assembly of parliament is composed of 66 archbishops, bishops, abbots and priors, which form the Bracchio ecclesiastico. Fifty eight princes, 27 dukes, 37 marquises, 27 counts, 1 viscount, and 79 barons form the militare; and the demaniale consists of forty-three representatives of free towns. Out of each braccio four deputies are chosen to conduct public business, But the viceroy, the prince of Butera, and the prætor of Palermo are always the three first. N. B. There are many titled persons that have no seat in the assembly, viz. 62 princes, 55 dukes, 87 marquises, 1 count, and 282 other feudatories.

Ecclesiastical government.

Three archbishopricks, and seven bishopricks.

Arms.

Party per saltire Arragon and Swabia.

Trinacria,

Trinacria, from its three capes, Pelorus, Lilybæum, and Pachinus. Sicani, from the Sicani; and Sicily from the Siculi, its ancient inhabitants.

1. Val di Noto.

So called from its principal towns.

260 miles in circumference.

Giarretta, Gurnalunga, Lentini, S. Giuliano, Anapo, Cafibili, Abisso, Ragusa, Dirillo, Manomuza, Salfo.

Biveri.

Syracuse, Augusta.

Syracuse, Agnuni, Pozzallo, Terranova.

Artifino, Armellino, Catalfaro.

Syracuse bishoprick.

Noto capital; Avola, Calatagerone, Lentini, Terranova, Modica, Calascibetta, Castrogiovanni, Piazza, S. Filippo, Augusta, Vizzini, Carlentini, Mineo, Aidone.

Syracuse, Camerina.

2. Val di Mazzara.

Called from a city.

302 miles in circumference.

Belici, Platani, Naro, Calatabellota, S. Bartolomeo, Amiraglio.

Palermo, Girgenti.

Alicata, Girgenti, Siculiana, Sciacca, Mazzara, Trapani, Castelmare, Palermo, Termini, Rocella.

San Giuliano, Pelegrino, Bufalmar, Bonifati, Quisquina, Cometa, S. Calogero, Monte d'oro.

Palermo,

Names.

Name.

Extent.

Rivers.

Lakes.

Seaports.

Caricatori.

Mountains.

Principal places.

Ruined cities.

Name.

Extent.

Rivers.

Seaports.

Caricatori.

Mountains.

Principal places.	Palermo, Montreale, archbishopricks. Mazzara, Girgenti, bishopricks. Trapani, Alicati, Alcamo, Termini, Castelvetro, Marfala, Naro, Sutura, Castronovo, Corleone, Salemi, Sciacca.
Ruined cities.	Agrigentum, Segesta, Selinus. 3. Val Demona.
Name.	Of uncertain etymology
Extent.	313 miles in circumference.
Rivers.	Giarretta, Nisi, Freddo, Alcantara.
Seaports.	Messina. Messina, S. Alessio, Gallidoro, Taormina, Melazzo, Patti, Brolo, Naso, S. Marco, Aquadolce, Caronia, Tusa, Cefalu, Catania, Trizza.
Mountains.	Etna, Madonna, Rosso, Cannata, Sori. Messina, archbishoprick.
Principal places.	Catania, Cefalu, Patti, Lipari, bishopricks. Rametta, Taormina, Randazzo, Melazzo, Mistretta, Jaci, Traina.

TABLES OF SICILIAN COINS.

GOLD COINS.	SILVER COINS.
1. Piece of 6 ducats, or double ounce.	Scudo, equal to 12 taris
2. Piece of three ditto, or onza.	Ducat - - 10
3. Piece of two ditto	Mezzo scudo - 6
4. Piece of one ducat and a half.	Terzo di scudo 4
	Piece of three tari 3
	— of 2 tari equal to the tari of Naples.
	The tari equal to the carlino of Naples.

BRASS. Grano, equal to six Neapolitan calli or half a grano.

Mezzo-grano, equal to three calli of Naples.

Other subdivisions are seldom met with.

The ounce or onza	} is equal to {	3 ducats or 30 taris.
The scudo		12 taris.
The ducat		10 taris.
The tari		20 grano.
The grana		6 piccioli.

Accompts are kept in onza, tari, and grano. Upon an average the ducat is worth forty-five pence English money.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

There are two sorts of weights used in Sicily.

1. Grande.

1 Cantaro contains 110 rotoli	} This cantaro is equal to 215 pounds of avoirdupois weight.
1 Rotolo 33 ounces	
1 lb 12 ounces	
1 Ounce 30 trapefi	

2. Common.

1 Cantaro contains 100 rotoli	} This cantaro is equal to 178 pounds weight avoirdupois.
1 Rotolo 30 ounces	

D R Y

TABLES OF SICILIAN COINS.

DRY MEASURE.———CORN.

- 1 Salma generale contains 16 tomoli—equal to 20 Winchester bushels, used in measuring wheat.
- 2 Salina a la grossa contains 20 tom.—equal to 24 W. bushels, used for barley, beans, &c.

LIQUID MEASURE.———OIL.

1 Caffis weighs 18 pounds avoirdupois.

WINE. 1 Salma contains 8 quartari. 1 Quart contains 12 quartucci.

LINEAL MEASURE.

- 12 Oncie makes 1 palmo, equal to 10 inch. 3 lines.
- 8 Palmi make 1 canna, equal to 6 feet 8 inches.

A

S H O R T S K E T C H

O F T H E

H I S T O R Y O F S I C I L Y.

S E C T I O N XXIV.

I.

IT has been the custom of all Sicilian chronologists to deduce the pedigree of their nation in a regular line from Gomer, the son of Japhet, whom they suppose to have settled in Sicily very soon after the flood; but their conjectures can throw no light on history, nor even afford satisfaction to any reasonable antiquarian curiosity. I shall therefore pass those early ages over unnoticed: The laws, manners, language and achievements of the people that inhabited Sicily in the infancy, or rather revival of society,

Greeks.

lie hidden behind an impenetrable cloud. Aborigenes, Cyclops, Sicani, and Siculi, are names given to nations that occupied this country successively; next came colonies from Greece, who seized upon the maritime parts of this fertile island abounding in harbours; the luxuriant soil supplied them with rich articles of exportation, and by commerce their numbers, wealth and power increased in a rapid progression; while the old inhabitants, confined to the inner mountainous regions, remained in an uncivilized state. By degrees their name, race and character became undistinguishably blended with that of their invaders.

Aristocracy prevailed at first in the Greek settlements, but soon made way for tyranny; in its turn expelled by democracy: One of the earliest destroyers of common liberty was Phalaris of Agrigentum, who reigned six hundred years before Christ; his example was contagious; a legion of tyrants sprang up, and not a commonwealth in the island escaped the lash of an usurper: Syracuse was the most oppressed and torn to pieces by dissention, as its wealth and preponderance in the general scale held out a greater temptation than other cities to the ambition of wicked men. It requires the combined testimony of historians to enforce our belief of its wonderful prosperity, and the no less extraordinary tyranny of some of its sovereigns. These Grecian colonies attained to such excellence in arts and sciences, as emboldened them frequently to vie with the learned and ingenious in the mother country;

may, often enabled them to bear away the palm of victory ; there needs no stronger proof of their literary merits than a bare recital of the names of Archimedes, Theocritus, Gorgias, and Charondas.

II.

But the Sicilian Greeks were not destined to enjoy the sweets of their situation without molestation. Very soon after their arrival, the inhabitants of the neighbouring coast of Africa, who had succeeded the Phœnicians in some ancient settlements on the coast, began to aspire to a share of Sicily. Carthage sent large bodies of forces at different times to establish their power in the island, and about five hundred years before the Christian æra had made themselves masters of all the western parts of it. The Siculi retained possession of the midland country, and the southern and eastern coasts were inhabited by the Greeks.

Carthaginians.

III.

About that time Gelo was chosen prince of Syracuse on account of his virtues, which grew still more conspicuous after his exaltation ; had the example he set been followed by his successors, the advantages of freedom would never have been known or wished for by the Syracusans. The qualities that endeared him while living to his people, rendered him, when dead, an object of veneration to their posterity ; the sense of his goodness was so strongly impressed on their minds by tradition, that long after, in the very crisis of a revolution, the statues of Gelo were ex-

Gelo.

cepted from the general sentence of destruction pronounced against those of all later sovereigns. The Carthaginians found in him a vigorous opponent to their project of enslaving Sicily, a project invariably pursued, but never accomplished.

Hiero.

Hiero succeeded his brother Gelo, and, contrary to the usual progression, began his reign by a display of bad qualities. Sensible of his error, and improved by experience, he afterwards adopted more equitable measures. At his death the Syracusans threw off the yoke, and for sixty years revelled in all the joys of freedom. Their peace was however disturbed by the Athenians and the Carthaginians. The latter plundered Agrigentum, and threatened ruin to the rest of the Grecian states; but a treaty of peace averted that storm. The Athenians, under pretence of supporting their allies, the people of Segesta, but, in reality, from a thirst of dominion, invested Syracuse with a formidable land and naval armament under the command of Nicias; in consequence of a rash indigested plan, ill conducted attacks, and inadequate supplies, their whole host was cut to pieces, or led away into captivity.

Dionysius
the elder.

Syracuse had scarce time to breathe after her victory ere intestine wars broke out, and raised Dionysius to supreme command. Avarice, despotism and cruelty marked every day of his reign, but his military enterprizes were crowned with constant success. He died in peace, and bequeathed a powerful sovereignty to a son of his name
tainted

Dionysius
the younger.

tainted with the same and worse vices, but not endowed with equal capacity and martial ability; in such hands the rod of tyranny ceased to be formidable, and the tyrant was driven out of Sicily by the patriotic party; but matters were not sufficiently settled for popular government, and Dionysius resumed the sceptre for a while, till Timoleon forced him into perpetual exile.

The system of legislation seemed now to be established upon a most promising basis, had not all prospects of permanent liberty in Syracuse been illusory.

Agathocles, a tyrant more inhuman than any preceding usurper, seized the throne, and deluged the country with blood; foreign war, civil strife, and domestic disquiets were the constant attendants on his royalty. He was involved in a perilous contest with the Carthaginians, who obtained many advantages over him, drove his troops from port to port, and at last blocked up his capital. In this desperate situation, when all foreign helps were precluded, and hardly a resource remained at home, the genius of Agathocles compassed his deliverance by a plan that has been admired and imitated by some of the greatest generals in succeeding ages. He embarked with the flower of his army; forced his way through innumerable obstacles; landed in Africa; and, having burnt his fleet, routed the Carthaginians in a pitched battle, and laid their territory waste. Carthage seemed to be on the brink of ruin, and that hour might have marked her downfall had the Sicilian host been composed

posed of patriotic soldiers, and not of ungovernable assassins ; discord pervaded the victorious camp, murder and riot ensued, and the tyrant, after beholding his children and friends butchered before his face, escaped to Sicily, to meet a death as tragical as his crimes deserved.

Pyrrhus.

Anarchy now raged throughout the island, and every faction was reduced to the necessity of calling in the assistance of foreign powers ; among whom Pyrrhus, king of Epirus, took the lead, and reduced all parties to some degree of order and obedience. Ambition soon prompted him to invade those rights he came to defend ; he cast off the mask, and made Sicily feel under his sway as heavy a hand as that of its former oppressors, but the Sicilians soon assumed courage and strength enough to drive him out of the island.

IV.

Romans.

About this period, a crew of miscreants, called Mamertines, surprised Messina, and after a general massacre of the citizens, established a republican form of government ; their commonwealth became so troublesome a neighbour to the

Hiero II.

Greeks, that Hiero the Second, who had been raised to the chief command at Syracuse in consideration of his superior wisdom and warlike talents, found himself necessitated to form a league with Carthage, in order to destroy this nest of villains. In their distress the Mamertines implored the assistance of Rome, though the senate had recently punished with exemplary severity one of their own legions
for

for a similar outrage committed at Rhegium. The virtue of the Romans gave way to the temptation, and the desire of extending their empire beyond the limits of Italy cast a veil over every odious circumstance attending this alliance. A Roman army crossed the Faro, relieved Messina, defeated the Carthaginians, and humbled Hiero into an ally of the republic.

Thus began the first Punic war, which was carried on for many years in Sicily with various success. The genius of Hamilcar Barcas supported the African cause under numberless disappointments, and the repeated overthrows of his colleagues; at last, finding his exertions ineffectual, he advised the Carthaginian rulers to purchase peace at the price of Sicily. Such a treaty was not likely to be observed longer than want of strength should curb the animosity of the vanquished party: when their vigor was recruited, Hannibal, son of Hamilcar, easily persuaded them to resume the contest, and for sixteen years waged war in the heart of the Roman territories. Mean while Hiero conducted himself with so much prudence, that he retained the friendship of both parties, and preserved his portion of Sicily in perfect tranquillity. He died, in extreme old age, beloved and respected both at home and abroad.

First Punic
war.

Second Punic
war.

His grandson, Hieronymus, forsaking this happy line of politics, and contracting an alliance with Carthage, fell an early victim to the troubles his own folly had excited.

Hieronymus:

Once

Once more, and for the last time, the Syracufans found themselves in possession of their independence, but the times were no longer suited to such a system; dissensions gained a head, and distracted the public councils. Carthage could not support them, or prevent Marcellus from undertaking the siege of Syracuse, immortalized by the mechanical efforts of Archimedes, and the immensity of the plunder.

V.

From henceforward the Sicilians relinquished all martial ideas, and during a long series of generations turned their attention solely to the arts of peace and the labours of agriculture: Their position in the center of the empire preserved them both from civil and foreign foes, except in two instances of a servile war. The rapacity of their governors was a more constant and insupportable evil. In this state of apathy and opulence Sicily remained down to the seventh century of our æra, when the Saracens began to disturb its tranquillity. The barbarous nations of the north had before invaded and ravaged its coasts, but had not long kept possession. The Saracens were more fortunate.

VI.

Saracens.
827.

1038.

In 827 they availed themselves of quarrels among the Sicilians to subdue the country. Palermo was chosen for their capital, and the standard of Mahomet triumphed about two hundred years. In 1038 George Maniaces was sent

sent by the Greek emperor with a great army to attack Sicily. He made good his landing, and pushed his conquests with vigour; his success arose from the valour of some Norman troops, which were at that time unemployed and ready to sell their services to the best bidder. Maniaces repaid them with ingratitude, and by his absurd conduct gave the Musulmen time to breathe, and the Normans a pretext and opportunity of invading the Imperial dominions in Italy. Robert and Roger of Hauteville afterwards conquered Sicily on their own account, not as mercenaries; for having substantially settled their power on the continent, they turned their arms against this island in obedience to the dictates of zeal and ambition. After a ten years struggle, the Saracens yielded up the rich prize, and Robert ceded it to his brother Roger, who assumed the title of Great Earl of Sicily.

1072.

Normans.
Roger.
1st Earl.

VII.

This first sovereign ruled the state with wisdom and glory, and ranks deservedly among the greatest characters in history. He raised himself from the humble station of a poor younger son of a private gentleman, to the exalted dignity of a powerful monarch, by the sole force of his own genius and courage; he governed a nation of strangers with vigour and justice, and transmitted his possessions undisputed to his posterity. Such an assemblage of great qualities is well entitled to our admiration.

He was succeeded by his son Simon, whose reign was short, and made way for a second son called Roger. In

Simon

1127.

1127 this prince joined to his Sicilian possessions the whole inheritance of Robert Guiscard, and

VIII.

Roger first
King.

Assumed the regal style. The greatest part of his reign was taken up in quelling revolts in Italy, but Sicily enjoyed profound peace.

1154.
William I.

In 1154 his son William ascended the throne, and passed his life in war and confusion.

William II.

William the Second succeeded his father, and died without issue.

Tancred.

Tancred, though basely born, was elected to succeed

William III.

him, and after him his son William the Third, who was

Henry.

vanquished by Henry of Swabia.

IX.

Germans.

During the troubles that agitated the reign of his son,

Frederick I.

the emperor Frederick, peace appears to have been the lot of Sicily. A short-lived sedition and a revolt of the Saracens are the only commotions I read of. For greater security the Saracens were removed to Puglia, four hundred years after the conquest of Sicily by their ancestors.

Conrad.
Manfred.

Under Conrad and Manfred Sicily remained quiet.

X.

French.

After the battle of Benevento these islands submitted to

Charles.

Charles of Anjou, and for several years obeyed him with servility equivalent to downright slavery, notwithstanding the wanton cruelty with which they were treated. But a day of retribution came at last: Charles, naturally of a
severe

severe temper and exclusively attached to men of the military profession, was apt to look upon the other classes of his subjects with contempt, and leave them a prey to his soldiers, against whom no complaints were admitted. With so decided a protection, his officers gave a loose to every passion, and for twelve years Sicily was ravaged by as many tyrants as it contained Frenchmen: no redress could be obtained; no man would stand forth as an advocate; not a hope was left of future indulgence. Is it a wonder then that such horrible oppression should urge a vindictive people to their last appeal—a dagger? John of Procida, with the connivance of the Greek emperor, and the king of Arragon son-in-law to king Manfred, encouraged the growing ferment till he had worked up the minds of the Sicilians to a proper pitch. On Easter Tuesday, 1282, the Palermitans rose and slew every Provençal they could find. 1282. their example was instantaneously followed by the whole island, and the proscription completed. No pardon could be expected from Charles, therefore the insurgents offered their crown to Peter king of Arragon, who accepted, and defended it against all the efforts of his antagonist, and the tremendous thunders of the Vatican. Arragoneſe,
Peter I.

XI.

1285.

James succeeded his father Peter, and with the help of Roger Lauria, the best seaman of the age, kept possession. James. On the death of an elder brother he became king of Arragon, and from scruple intended to restore Sicily to the king

Frederick II.

1337.

Peter II.

1342.

Lewis.

1355.

Frederick III.

of Naples; but the desperate islanders elected a third brother, Frederick, whose intrepidity and prudence amply justified the propriety of their choice. During a period of forty-one years he maintained his ground without allies or resources, except what he drew from his own genius, and the steady hatred his subjects bore to their former governors. He died in 1337, revered and lamented, leaving a flourishing kingdom to his son Peter the second. But it is only in long-established monarchies, where the wheels of government have acquired by use a spontaneous mechanical motion, that a difference of talents in princes makes no very essential change in the political system. In so new and so precarious a government as that of Sicily, the loss of this wise and resolute master was soon felt. The great vassals of the crown, who had bowed with awe before the vigorous spirit of Frederick, raised up their heads the moment the sceptre passed into weaker hands. To add to the distresses of internal troubles, the island was invaded by the Neapolitans, and thus surrounded with danger, Peter breathed his last. The crown devolved upon his infant child Lewis, whose reign was a series of misfortunes; happily for him the hereditary enemies of his house were so hampered with dissensions at home, that they had no time to take advantage of his distress. His uncle John ruled, during some years of his minority, with great steadiness, but after his decease, various factions seized the reins by turns. Lewis died in the flower of his age. Frederick the Third succeeded his brother,

ther, and was no better than a phantom of royalty, without talents or authority. He left an only daughter, Mary, acknowledged as queen, but deprived of all power by the seditious baronage. She escaped to Spain, and there married her cousin Martin, with whom she returned to Sicily. The appearance of the royal pair operated a speedy change, but it could not be completed without a violent struggle. Mary died without issue, and left her husband to reign alone. Martin, whose noble spirit had endeared him to the Sicilians, died in 1409, and his father, Martin the Second, to whom the crown reverted, did not survive him above a year; with him the line of Arragon became extinct, and all its kingdoms fell to the lot of Ferdinand of Castille,

Mary.

Martin I.

1402.

Martin II.

Ferdinand I.

XII.

Who, by a most unparalleled arbitration, was raised to the throne in preference to eight competitors.

While this award was in agitation, Sicily was thrown into great confusion by some restless leaders; but every thing was soon brought to proper obedience by the firm and just administration of the new king.

Alphonfus the Magnificent succeeded his father, and added Naples to his other dominions; the wars that attended this acquisition had little effect upon Sicily, nor was its peace much disturbed under a succession of viceroys. On the death of this great prince, Sicily was inherited by his brother, John king of Navarre. From this period, the history of Sicily becomes barren of events, and uninteresting,

Alphonfus.

1458.

John.

interesting, as it was never involved in any of the wars that afflicted Italy. The monarchs seldom visited this distant province, where viceroys have ever since presided. Under Ferdinand the Catholic and

XIII.

The princes of Austria nothing material occurs, except the rebellion of the Messinese against Charles the Second. At the death of this prince, his spoils became an object of furious contention, and at the peace of Utrecht

XIV.

Sicily was ceded to Victor, duke of Savoy. Not many years after, the emperor Charles the Sixth forced him to relinquish this fine island, and take that of Sardinia as an equivalent. But as the Spaniards had had no concern in these bargains, they made a sudden attempt to recover Sicily, in which they failed, through the vigilance of the English admiral Byng. He destroyed their fleet in 1718, and compelled them to drop their scheme for a time.

XV.

In 1734, the Spanish court resumed their design with success. The infant Don Carlos drove the Germans out, and was crowned king of the two Sicilies, at Palermo. When he passed into Spain to take possession of that crown, he transferred the Sicilian diadem to his son Ferdinand the Third of Sicily, and Fourth of Naples.

V O Y A G E
T O
S I C I L Y.

S E C T I O N XXV.

EARLY in December I resumed my project of visiting Sicily, which a combination of circumstances had defeated the preceding summer: An excursion even in winter could not be formidable in so southern a latitude; nor was it a small inducement to think that I should be less molested by insects of all sorts; that the ruins would be more visible and accessible while the shrubs and brambles that envelope them were leafless than when covered with thick foliage; and that I should see this celebrated island at a different season from that in which most travellers have visited it. I provided myself with the conveniences I thought desirable in a country of poor accommo-

accommodations, and was favoured with a load of recommendatory letters. I had afterwards little occasion for the former, and except two of the recommendations, the whole packet was useless.

In the evening of the 8th of December, 1777, I sailed from Naples in a French ship. We left the port with a very faint breeze, and made little way during the whole night, which was delightfully pleasant with a bright moon and mild temperature of air. By day-break we were but a mile south of Capri; its appearance on that aspect is remarkably wild and rugged; its bold towering cliffs are opposed to the tremendous seas that roll up till then unchecked from the Streights of Gibraltar; but meeting here with an immovable barrier, flow afterwards in gentle swells into the gulf of Naples; on which side alone Capri displays its elegant beauties.

With great varieties of calms and brisk gales from the N. E. we came in the morning of the 10th in sight of the Sicilian coast, having the Liparean isles of * Alicudi and † Felicudi thirty miles to the windward, and the island of Ustica about twenty on the other quarter. Ustica is small, and not much elevated above the sea; it

* Anciently Ericusa, from being covered with heath, and Phœnicusa from the abundance of palm trees, or rather palmettos.

† Anciently the same name. Some ages ago it was well inhabited, and the ruins of a church still remain; but the frequent attacks of the Corsairs obliged its inhabitants to abandon it.

has two eminences, between which a town and fort have lately been erected, and about eight hundred inhabitants settled to prevent Barbary rovers from making it a place of rendezvous : While it remained desolate, those pirates were wont to lie hidden under its shore till a proper opportunity offered of darting out upon some unsuspecting vessel, or of making an attack upon the northern coasts of Sicily : The two other islands rise like cones out of the water, a proof of their volcanic origin.

We here met with contrary winds, gloomy weather, and a very rough sea that tossed us about two days and one night ; at length a smart breeze sprang up and carried us into the harbour of Palermo, a few minutes before a storm arose that would infallibly have driven us off, and probably buffeted us about many days ; a shoal of fishes was leaping and playing at the entrance of the bay when the rain began. The extreme haziness of the weather precluded all view of the city and port, a sight I much regretted, having built great expectations of delight upon the high painted descriptions I had read of it. When we were admitted to *prattica*,* my books were carried to the inquisition, and returned to me in the evening for the fee of two taris.

* *Prattica* means that the ship is found to be healthy, and therefore admissible.

I took the earliest opportunity of paying visits and delivering the letters I had brought from Naples to the principal people of the Sicilian metropolis; most of these recommendations came from persons of such rank, and such connections with those they were addressed to, that I entertained the firmest confidence of meeting with an agreeable reception in a city renowned for its civility to foreigners; but I was deceived in the flattering prospect; few of my visits were returned; no notice taken of the letters I presented; no civilities shewn, or a single invitation given me to break bread under a Sicilian roof. I can only make two exceptions to this universal coolness; one was that learned antiquary prince Lancellotti of Torremuza, who paid great attention to my recommendatory introduction, and wasted more of his time in my company than I had a right to expect from a man of his studious turn, loaded moreover with the superintendency of the public schools. The other was Monsignor Severino of Naples, archbishop of the united sees of Palermo and Montreale, whose evenness of temper, and affability, shew how easily the heavy duties of the charge sit upon a person that fulfils them with regularity and resolution.

I was happy in enjoying his conversation almost every evening during my stay in the city, and owe to his care all the comforts and hospitality I received in the island. I cannot place in the class of civilities the permission granted to me by the viceroy (prince of Stigliano,) of

mixing with the crowd on his public nights. I had no opportunity of acquiring any insight into the character, or manners of the inhabitants, and this must plead my excuse with the reader for my total silence on that head.

P A L E R M O.

S E C T I O N XXVI.

TH E retirement in which I lived at Palermo was rendered doubly irksome by incessant rains that confined me great part of the time to my apartment. I seized every hour of fair weather with eagerness to roam about the town and country, in order to acquire an idea of the outside of the houses, at least, since I was debarred access to the inside. My observations shall be comprised in a small compass, to satisfy the curiosity of my readers without fatiguing their attention.

* It is not possible to decide whether Palermo owed its
rise

* A great variety of coins were struck at Palermo under its different masters, but as it seems never to have been an independent state, I shall only exhibit a few specimens of its several types.

Numi





H. W. H. del.

P. Mazell sculp.

View of the PORT *of* PALERMO.

Publith'd according to Act of Parliament, Nov^r 1st 1784, by P. Elmsly, Strand.

rise to an union of the ancient primordial inhabitants of Sicily, to Phœnician traders, to Grecian emigrants, or to the Carthaginians. Its name seems Greek, but as we are ignorant how it was called in the oriental tongue, it may be suspected that Panormus is but a translation from that language. It was one of the three stations reserved by the Phœnicians, when the frequent arrival of Greek colonies made it unsafe for them to dwell in small factories along the coasts. Till the 494th year of Rome it remained in the possession of Carthage; it was then surrendered to the Romans, who, as long as their empire subsisted, had reason to applaud the fidelity and attachment of its inhabitants. They submitted patiently to the

Numi Panormitanorum.

Ex Auro.

1. Caput muliebre—lyra cum figlâ [AP]

Ex Argento.

1. Cap. Jovis—Aquila PAN.
2. Cap. mul. spicis cor.—Caput medusæ et symbolum Trinacriæ. PANOPMITAN.

Ex Ære.

1. Fig. vir. st. haft. t. KAPT PAN—Cap. Equi cum habenâ XIII.
2. Cap. Jovis—Aquila capite conv. fulm. ten. PANOPMITAN.
3. Cap. Cereris vel—Cap. Medusæ cum symb. Trin. PANOPMITAN.
4. Cap. vir. symb. Trin. SICILIAE—Aratrum PANORMI.
5. Crux PANORMI VRBIS—Aquila REGNI SECILIE.
6. Cap. Augusti PANOPMITAN—Tria crura.
7. Cap. Cereris OMONOIA—Cornucopiæ PANOPMITAN.
8. Cap. vir. PANORMITANORVM—Cap. mul. spic. coron. AVGVS.
9. Cap. Jovis—Templum columnis fultum PAN. E. D.

great

great changes that afflicted the Roman republic and empire down to the year of Christ 821, when it was taken by the Saracens, but soon abandoned, as they were not yet sufficiently powerful in the island to maintain their ground. Eight years afterwards, their conquest being effectually secured, Palermo became the metropolis, and flourished two hundred years in barbaric splendour. Robert Guiscard and his brother Roger took it from the infidels in 1071, and made it the seat of empire.

As long as the sovereign of Sicily resided in the island, Palermo enjoyed the advantages attendant on the royal presence; since they have absented themselves from it, that of their viceroys has faintly supplied the deficiency.

The first clear day gave me a desire of viewing Palermo from the sea; on which side it exhibits a most noble spectacle. Its extensive bay is confined by a circle of mountains of various elevations and forms, and the steeples, cupolas and towers of the city rise in the plain that extends from their foot, and lines the shore. Towards the west, a thick grove spreads along the beach to the port and lighthouse, where a forest of masts hides the base of the huge insulated rock, called Monte Pellegrino. On the east side a reach of well cultivated grounds ascends gradually to cape Azafran that shuts in the gulf.

The harbour is very dangerously open to the swell and sea from the N. E. quarter, and even at the anchoring place ships lie in peril whenever a westerly wind blows,

as

as it rushes with great impetuosity through the valley of Colli between the mountains. In former times the haven was within the town, composed of two long creeks, about 100 paces broad, and shut up with a boom. They were sufficiently capacious for the slight tonnage then in use, but about the year 1520 were choaked with sand thrown in by the sea, or washed down by rain, and no possibility appearing of restoring a proper depth of water, they were quite filled up, and built upon.

Palermo is walled round almost in a circular form, and is said to contain above an hundred and two thousand souls, exclusive of ecclesiastics of all denominations, and both sexes, and of all officers and servants belonging to the crown, the church, and the magistracy.* It is divided into four parts by two streets that intersect each other at right angles; these are decorated with statues, fountains, and buildings that present the idea of a royal city, but most of the other streets are narrow and crooked, and being wretchedly paved, are buried in dirt during the winter. Palermo is well lighted with reverberating lamps, and in wet weather moveable wooden bridges are provided for crossing the kennels, which then become rapid torrents. There are no hackney coaches; the carriages let out for hire, as well as those commonly used by the nobility, are antique inconvenient vehicles, drawn by mules. In sum-

* Amico in his Lexicon, printed in 1759, says, that Palermo contained 114131 inhabitants in 1595—111818 in 1653, and 102106 in 1713.

mer, and on festivals, coaches of greater elegance make their appearance. The most shewy of the two principal streets is called Il Caffaro; * the other La Nova. At the point of intersection is a small octagon area, embellished with statues of the seasons so short in their proportions, that I took them for busts. Above each is a figure of a Spanish monarch executed in a better taste; and over these in due gradation are placed heads of saints. Near this opening is a square formed by the senate house, and some large convents. The center is crowded with a fountain calculated for a much more ample space, and consequently seen to great disadvantage.

The Caffaro is terminated on the north by the Porta Felice, a triumphal arch opening to the Marina, a handsome quay, whither in summer nights the inhabitants resort to enjoy the fanning breeze, take refreshments, and listen to the serenades that enliven the still hour. The other extremity joins a large square before the cathedral, a Gothic edifice, built in 1185 by archbishop Walter, which now threatens ruin; its architecture is not the most pleasing of that style; for at the time of the erection of this church it had not attained the elegant lightness and delicacy of ornament, which soon after distinguished it, and produced considerable beauty, notwithstanding a total deviation from all the chaste proportions of the Grecian art. The whole pile is in a tottering

* From the Arabic Kasar, a palace, to which it leads.

condition,

condition, and calls for speedy assistance; a plan has been drawn for rebuilding great part of it by the King's architect, who proposes to raise a cupola, and refit it entirely in the modern taste. The choir ends in a horseshoe arch, decorated in latter times by Gagini, the best of the Sicilian sculptors, with statues and arabesques executed in a taste which unfortunately jars with the general costume of the place, and would have produced a noble effect in any edifice where it was more in unison with that of the other decorations.

The eastern isle contains several tombs of sovereigns; four are of porphyry under canopies of the same beautiful materials, borne by columns that seem to appertain to no known order of architecture; on the canopies are placed the names and arms of each prince, with an inscription of later date full of untruths, composed in 1538 by Roger Paruta, a canon of this cathedral. The armorial coat given by the sons of Tancred of Hauteville, as blazoned on this monument, and stamped on their coins, was azure, a bend checkee, argent and gules.

At the foot of the altar rests the heroic Earl Roger the conqueror of Sicily, and the terror of infidels.

The tabernacle at the head of this isle is one of the finest collections of lapis lazuli I ever saw.

S E C T I O N XXVII.

MOST of the churches are rich in silver, gems and marble, but their style of building and decoration is infinitely more barbarous and unpleasant to the eye of a person capable of tasting the genuine beauties of good architecture, than all the extravagances of monkish and Saracenic artists: In several, the walls within are lined with red or yellow marble, upon which ground from the ceiling to the floor are glued basso relievo figures of angels, beasts and flowers in white marble; nothing can be more harsh and unharmonious than this mode of adorning; it has as bad an effect as cut paper pasted on a painted board. A few churches are exceptions to this general criticism, and among them the most perfect is that lately belonging to the Jesuits; its cupola is painted by Sicilian masters of great merit, but there is some degree of affectation in the attitudes of their figures, and errors in the perspective.

Palermo is crowded with statues of sovereigns and tutelar saints, most of them done by unskilful hands, and placed in small courts and squares upon pedestals of colossal proportion, and tasteless form. The profusion of marbles displayed throughout the city would render it truly magnificent, were the design, according to which they are employed, equal to the materials; the contrary is the case in
2
general.

general. I was however much struck with the interior court of one house, which is surrounded by a colonnade of red marble, approaching in grain and colour to the Rosso Antico. Few public or private buildings exhibit any traces of true noble architecture; a vicious taste prevails resembling that which predominated in Spain after the death of the great men that flourished under Charles the Fifth, and Philip the Second.

The viceroy's palace, which stands near the south gate, is an immense mass of discordant parts built at different periods. Fragments of Arabic building join towers of Norman construction; to which additions have been made in every subsequent century. The halls are of a noble size, and well calculated for great assemblies; the courts of justice are held on the ground floor, and batteries of cannon defend the approach. They have been employed for that purpose in the numberless revolts of the Palermians, but were of little avail in the last insurrection.

In the year 1771 the post of Prætor, or supreme municipal magistrate, was filled by the prince of Cassaro, a man of plain good sense and patriotic views; he executed the trust reposed in him with a shew of sincere attachment to the interests of his fellow citizens, entered with great humanity into all their sufferings, and administered justice, as far as depended upon his influence, with promptitude and impartiality. Whatever might be his private motives; for these, as may well be imagined, have been placed in

various lights, his ambition of becoming popular, or his sentiments of patriotism, were fully gratified by the consideration and esteem which he acquired. The inferior class of people soon began to look up to him as to a protector and a father; some instances of his strict attention to justice worked up their love to enthusiastic veneration.

While Cassaro was thus advancing rapidly in the paths of popularity, unforeseen events combined to give his progress double vigour. The irregularity of the weather and bad appearance of the crops on the ground having raised great apprehensions of a very scanty harvest, and consequently of a scarcity of corn, or, at least, a great advance in the value, the senate of Palermo came to the wise resolution of laying in a quantity of old corn sufficient for the consumption of the city, while it yet bore a moderate price; this project was obstructed by a very formidable difficulty, the want of funds to purchase with: To procure them, no better way could be devised than an application to the viceroy, the marquis Foliani, for a loan of such sums as lay in the treasury, arising from the sale of effects belonging to the Jesuits. The viceroy not thinking himself authorized to appropriate that money to any uses whatever without the king's orders, and moreover, not being satisfied with the security the corporation had offered for the reimbursement, refused the required supply. Upon receiving this answer, Cassaro raised the money on his own credit, purchased the corn, and stood
all

all the risks and losses of the advance. He was now extolled by the people as their benefactor, their saviour, their *tata* or father ; but he lived a very short time to enjoy the sweets of his popularity. He had long laboured under a variety of infirmities, among which the most violent was the stone ; this cruel disorder, perhaps irritated by his late extraordinary exertions, increased to such a degree, that it was judged absolutely necessary for him to have the stone extracted ; unfortunately the viceroy's surgeon was chosen for this purpose. The operation was skilfully performed, but the patient's strength being unequal to the shock, death became inevitable. His danger was no sooner known than the mob flew to the churches, seized every saint's bust, statue, or relick that had the least reputation for miraculous powers, and brought them in solemn procession to the senate house, where they placed them in a row, and then in profound silence with their tears implored the intercession of the celestial host for the recovery of their favourite magistrate. When no signs of help appeared from these mediators, the populace in crowds, their feet bare, their heads covered with sackcloth and ashes, went up Monte Pellegrino to the shrine of Saint Rosalia, but returned without obtaining their boon, for the Prætor died. And now devotion turned to rage ; seditious outcries succeeded pious ejaculations, and the furious mob ran to the palace, snatched the firelock out of the centinel's hands, stuck a loaf of bread upon the bayonet, and
paraded

paraded the streets, crying, Tata is gone, we shall have no more of this good bread. The insurgents believed, or pretended to believe, that the viceroy had caused Cassaro to be murdered by his surgeon, and that he was in a combination with the nobility to starve the poor citizens. These ideas gaining universal credit, the rioters proceeded to break open the prison doors, release the culprits, and burn the prisons; several houses of noblemen and financiers were devoted to the flames, and a general confusion reigned. The populace next placed a man astride upon a cannon, with the king's picture before him, and thus drew him about the streets, while another fellow brandished a lighted torch over the touch-hole; the crowd crying furiously as they went, "Viva lou Rey muora stou ladro."

The archbishop, and some popular noblemen entreated, harangued, and pressed every possible argument upon the rioters without success; one deafening clamour overpowered their voices, and the banishment of the viceroy was insisted upon from all quarters, as the previous condition without which they would lend ear to no agreement. The marquis, seeing it in vain to resist, left his palace; the triumphant mob forced him to pass through the heart of the town amidst a thousand indignities; his ears stuned with the most opprobrious epithets, and his eyes offended with the sight of bonfires made in the streets with furniture and goods torn from the dwellings of his friends and adherents. After undergoing this mortifying ordeal, he

he was suffered to reach the port, where he embarked in a charcoal barge, and, without provisions or change of clothes, made the best of his way to Cefalu.

Intoxicated with their victory over government, the revolted broke through all bounds; the property of the rich was plundered or burnt, victuals were seized and consumed unpaid for, and every sturdy villain appropriated to his own use whatever came in his way that suited his purpose. Universal anarchy prevailed, though a junto of the most active among the factious attempted to assert a kind of authority over the populace; they devised plans for destroying the nobility and officers of the revenue, and assuming to themselves the power and titles of viceroy, prætor, captain of justice, &c. these high offices were to be filled by a thieftaker, a barber, and a shoemaker; and, in the hour of madness, they pleased themselves with the idea that they should frighten the king into a confirmation of their authority. These dreams were not of long duration; for, after lawless riot had reigned uninterrupted for four days and as many nights, the *maestranza*, or companies of tradesmen and artificers, who now began to dread its consequences, and apprehend ruin to themselves, seized the ringleaders of the insurgents, and consigned them to public justice. The magistrates caused them to be immediately strangled and their heads hung out *ad terrorem*; some hundreds of the most desperate among the seditious were secretly taken off, a strong body of troops introduced, a
new

new viceroy sent, and in a few months government restored to the full possession of its former power.

SECTION XXVIII.

THE assemblies at the viceroy's palace gave me an opportunity of seeing the whole corps of nobility collected together; the men are rather a comely race, but the ladies are little favoured by nature. Two girls under eight years of age, heiresses of great families, and already betrothed, made their appearance in the ball-room, decked out in the very excess of the mode; their shewy dresses, diminutive size, and affected gravity in dancing their minuet, joined to the fatherly care their future husbands anxiously took of them, put me in mind of dolls that are made to move round a table by clockwork.

In the streets the women hide their heads in black veils, a custom I thought borrowed from the Spaniards, who were so long in possession of Sicily; but I have since been informed that it is a very ancient mode of dress in the island, and in use long before any connection with Spain existed. *

The viceroy affects in every thing the pageantry of royalty; his train of coaches is splendid; a strong well dres-

* As this dress unites convenience with œconomy, it has lately been introduced into Naples, where it has grown very fashionable.

fed body of guards attends his person, and, on parade days, his coachmen, postillions, and livery servants are dressed in flowing wigs, without hats. When he goes to church, he receives the tribute of a cloud of incense, and he alone, with great solemnity, puts on his hat. On the twenty-first of December, he makes an annual visit to the jails, where he has the power of pardoning and releasing as many prisoners as he pleases. All law is that day dormant, and, although the judges and magistrates have a right to remonstrate, he is under no obligation of following their advice. Viceroys generally use this prerogative very cautiously, and, if they absolve a criminal, it is after mature deliberation, and upon a report from the judges. The duke de la Vieuville, a choleric old soldier, happened to take offence at some doubts being expressed concerning the extent of this act of grace, and therefore to shew his power in full force, ordered the prison doors to be thrown open, and all those confined within to be set at liberty.

I saw no considerable Roman or Greek antiquities in Palermo. The smaller memorials of ancient grandeur, which chance has brought to light, and a revival of good taste happily preserved, are collected together in one museum, in the great college lately directed by the Jesuits.

Those fathers, being aware of their impending fate, secreted their most valuable moveables, and stripped the gallery of every article of precious materials or excellent

workmanship; their rich collection of medals and cameos was carried off, but enough still remains in the fossil and mineral branch to lay the foundations of a noble cabinet of natural history.

The college is at present under the inspection of the prince of Torremuza, whose deep erudition, steadiness of character, and solid judgment, qualify him admirably for such a trust. He informed me that the king had in contemplation a plan for educating an hundred young gentlemen gratis upon the funds of the late Jesuits.

There was once a well stocked botanical garden at Miselmeri belonging to the prince of La Catholica, whence its catalogue was entitled Hortus Catholicus. The account, perhaps erroneous, which I received, of its being now much neglected deterred me from visiting it.

The town ditches produce great abundance of the *Ricinus Palma Christi**, from which plant castor oil is extracted in the West Indies; the same excellent physic might be obtained from that of Sicilian growth, for the experiment has been tried with success by Don Domenico Cyrillo, a Neapolitan physician of great eminence.

* Linnæi *Monæica Monadelphia*. 1085.

E N V I R O N S
O F
P A L E R M O.

S E C T I O N XXIX.

A SHORT respite from rain gave me an opportunity of making a few excursions into the country.

The sanctuary of St. Rosalia, the peculiar patroness of Palermo was the first place I visited. About a mile from the gates, Monte Pellegrino rises abruptly, quite detached from all other mountains. Its rocks are a hard lime-stone, and are quite bare; some tufts of grass shoot up in the interstices, but neither tree nor shrub is to be seen any where upon it, except near the top. In order to facilitate the approach to the saint's grotto, the senate of Palermo levied a tax upon meat, and, with the amount, made a road from the city up the side of the mountain. By this

way, in an hour's walk, I reached a convent and portico that close up the entrance of a spacious cavern, so full of springs, that leaden pipes are laid along the roof to catch the drops and convey them into a cistern, without which precaution no part would be dry. A rich altar covers the marble effigy of the saint, represented lying at full length. It is covered with a silver vest, the gift of his present Catholic majesty. The story of the saint written on the wall informed me that St. Rosalia was the daughter of a count Sinibaldus, and that, in order to preserve her virginity from the brutality of the Saracens, who then ruled in Sicily, she retired to a cave on Mount Quisquina, and afterwards came to live on Mount Pellegrino; here she died, and remained unknown till the year 1624, when her grotto, history and body were all discovered together.

Towards the close of the first punic war, Hamilcar Barcas fortified this mountain*, and preserving a free communication with the sea, maintained the post for five years, notwithstanding the success of his enemies against all the other Carthaginian generals.

My second day's route lay along the shore, towards the east, through a rich well-inclosed plain, bounded by very high mountains. The little river Ammiraglio†, on the banks of which Metellus defeated the Carthaginians, has

* By the Greeks and Romans called Erêta, and Belgrin (neighbouring mountain) by the Saracens.

† Anciently Orethus.

worn its way deep into the stony stratum under the vegetable covering. The stone is formed by an union of different pieces, knotted and rounded like stalagmites. This stream flows through pastures and orchards, which, even in December display a lively green, and produce a pleasing variety with that of the young corn and pulse, and the rich foliage of the agrumi*. A new bridge has been built across this river, the first steps towards carrying into execution a plan for opening safe and commodious roads throughout the island, which is at present totally destitute of them. The archbishop, and some other public spirited persons have forwarded this essay, in hopes of stimulating the national assembly to exert itself, and correspond effectually with the king's wishes in that particular. It is meant to direct the great highways equally to all parts of the kingdom, for the assembly will not readily consent that any one district should be more favoured than the rest, as all contribute to the expence. But as it is impossible to begin the work in so many different places at once, the objection might be removed, were the first road to be fixed upon by casting lots. It is a shame that so little should be done for public utility by a nation possessed of innumerable rich articles of commerce, slightly loaded with taxes, and defended in some

* This is the generical term in Italian for all ever-green fruit trees, such as orange, citron, bergamot, cedrato—I employ it to save a tedious circumlocution.

degree by a parliament, composed of clergy, nobility, and citizens, from the usual encroachments of sovereigns, but not sufficiently protected against the more immediate power of feudal lords*.

The baronage of Sicily is more independent of regal authority than that of Naples, and exercises greater sway over its vassals. In the kingdom of Naples the *mero e misto imperio*, as it is called, or the executive authority, is confined by various regulations; the Baron names the Governatore only of his feudal town, the Syndic and Eletti are chosen by the people. In Sicily no restraint seems to be laid upon the lord of the manor; he appoints to every place of trust and jurisdiction; civil and criminal law are both distributed by his creatures; the judges of the fief hear causes, condemn offenders, and then send the sentence for confirmation to the law agent, which every baron keeps in Palermo: If he approves of the sentence, it is executed without further appeal. These prerogatives vary a little according to particular tenures, but in general, barons have the disposal of every thing within their manor. When Earl Roger gave his captains these exorbitant powers over their lands and vassals, he gave them nothing but the property and the bodies of infidels, which he abandoned to their will and discretion as objects of contempt and hatred. In process of time Christians became

* To form a fund for making these new roads, a tax of four ounces has been laid upon every coach.

the sole occupiers of those lands which were held upon such abject conditions of vassalage ; but the barons suffered no diminution of authority to take place on that account, though it was certainly far from Roger's intentions to reduce Christians to slavery.

I rode about ten miles by the edge of the bay, between hedges of aloe and Indian fig. On the waste, asparagus, oleander, palma christi, and palmetto*, or dwarf palm, over-run the surface of the ground. The road rises gradually to La Bagaria, a hill covered with villas belonging to the nobility; its soil is red and rocky. Some of these houses, being situated on the brow that separates the bays of Palermo and Termini, command a view of both; they are built with a coarse porous breccia of a dusky yellow cast, which is extremely unfit for the purposes of ornamental architecture, as it moulders away by being exposed to wind and rain. The first villa I saw belongs to a prelate of the name of Galetti; he has lately built it in a most agreeable taste. The centre of the rustic story is occupied by an arched gateway, having on each side an open niche, in which is placed a vase of antique form; above rises an order of Corinthian pilasters, crowned by a well-proportioned pediment and balustrade; the ornaments, though numerous, are chaste and light.

The sight of a house erected upon such reasonable prin-

* Palma flabellifolia five Chamaerops humilis. Linn. Class. 25.

ples of architecture was but a bad preparation for a visit to the villa of Palagonia its neighbour. To this extraordinary place the traveller is admitted through a huge gate, on the plinth of which are fixed six colossal white-washed statues of hussards or halberdiers, to dispute the entrance of an avenue three hundred yards long, not of cypresses, elms, or orange trees, but of monsters.

On each hand is a parapet wall loaded with more horrible figures than were ever raised by Armida and all the enchanters of Ariosto. Busts of Punchinellos and Harlequins, with snakes twisted round them; the heads of dwarfs with huge perriwigs, of asses and horses with laced cravats and ruffs, compose the lower range of this gallery, and at intervals of ten yards are clustered pillars, supporting curious groups of figures; some are musicians, others pigmies, opera heroes, old women grinning, lions and other beasts, seated at tables with napkins under their chins, eating oysters; princesses with feathers and furbelows, ostriches in hoops, and cats in boots. In short, more unaccountable mixtures of company, and unnatural representations of creatures than I had patience to note, or memory to record. They are luckily all made of so soft and perishable a stone, that we need be under no apprehensions of this collection passing to posterity as a monument of the taste of the eighteenth century. Many enormous noses and preposterous limbs have already crumbled to dust. The stone cutters that made these figures, though they could barely
trace

trace out a resemblance of the human form, have shewn great dexterity in carving curls, foliage and flounces out of such coarse materials.

This avenue of Pandæmonium brought me to a circular court before the house, crowded with stone and marble beings, not to be found in any books of zoology. Men, monsters and animals line the battlements of the mansion, and stand so thick, and in such menacing attitudes, that it would not be safe to approach in a windy day. The walls are cased with basso relievos, masks, medallions, scriptural subjects, heathen gods, emperors, and posture masters: some of the sculpture is in a good style, copied from the antique, but the greatest part consists of such figures as we meet with in Dutch fairs representing the seasons and elements.

Within doors the same sort of company presents itself, but the proprietor has for some years past abandoned this wonderful abode, and many of its beauties feel the fatal effects of his absence. The ceilings of the rooms are of looking glass; the walls lined with china and delf baubles, monkeys hold up the curtains, horses mount guard, and devils wait at the foot of the stairs. The ball room remains imperfect, though intended for the chef d'œuvre; round it runs a marble bench, which upon examination I found to contain a great number of night tables.

I was in a hurry to leave this world of monsters, which almost made me giddy; the absurdity was so gross, the scene so disgustingly foolish, that I could not force a smile, but reflected with amazement that the owner should be suffered to go at large. However he is harmless, and his relations have taken upon them the administration of his estates; but not till he had squandered away forty thousand pounds sterling in these creations; his family has often wanted clothes and victuals, while the prince was lavishing his revenue in providing a dinner in stone for non-entities; he is a meek poor-looking mortal, with a feeble body, that does not appear to have energy enough even to commit such egregious follies. Since he has been debarred the pleasure of raising devils, he has attached himself to the saints, and spends his life in following processions, and visiting churches. When he is asked in what part of the globe the originals of the figures upon his walls are to be met with, he answers, in Egypt, where Diodorus Siculus tells him, that the rays of the sun act so powerfully upon the fat slime left by the Nile, that it engenders all sorts of uncouth, and otherwise unknown animals.

SECTION XXX.

ABOVE this palace of folly, stands the villa Valguarnera, which takes in a view of Palermo and its bay, and the whole gulf of Termini as far as Cape Orlando. Its orchard consists of the Manna ash, which was in blossom. In the middle of July a gash is made through the bark, and each succeeding day the operation is repeated, as long as the tears of gum exude: each tree yields about half a pound of gum a year, therefore is worth to the owner two taris and a half annually, the usual price being five taris a pound. These trees never arrive at any considerable size, on account of their annual bleedings; but the gardener assured me they last a century yielding manna. The borders were full of roses and other flowers in blow, and very highly scented; violets and carnations had been in flower since October; many fruit trees here bear two crops; they produce fruit in the usual season, then bud again, and fructify a second time near the middle of September; the pears I tasted of this second gathering were but small and insipid.

On the rocks of Cape Azafran, and on the shore at its foot stood the Greek city of Solus. The fields adjoining

still retain the name of Solanto.* The tunny fishery is here very copious; a person concerned in it told me that a thousand large fishes have been taken at one draught; the nets are laid in May.

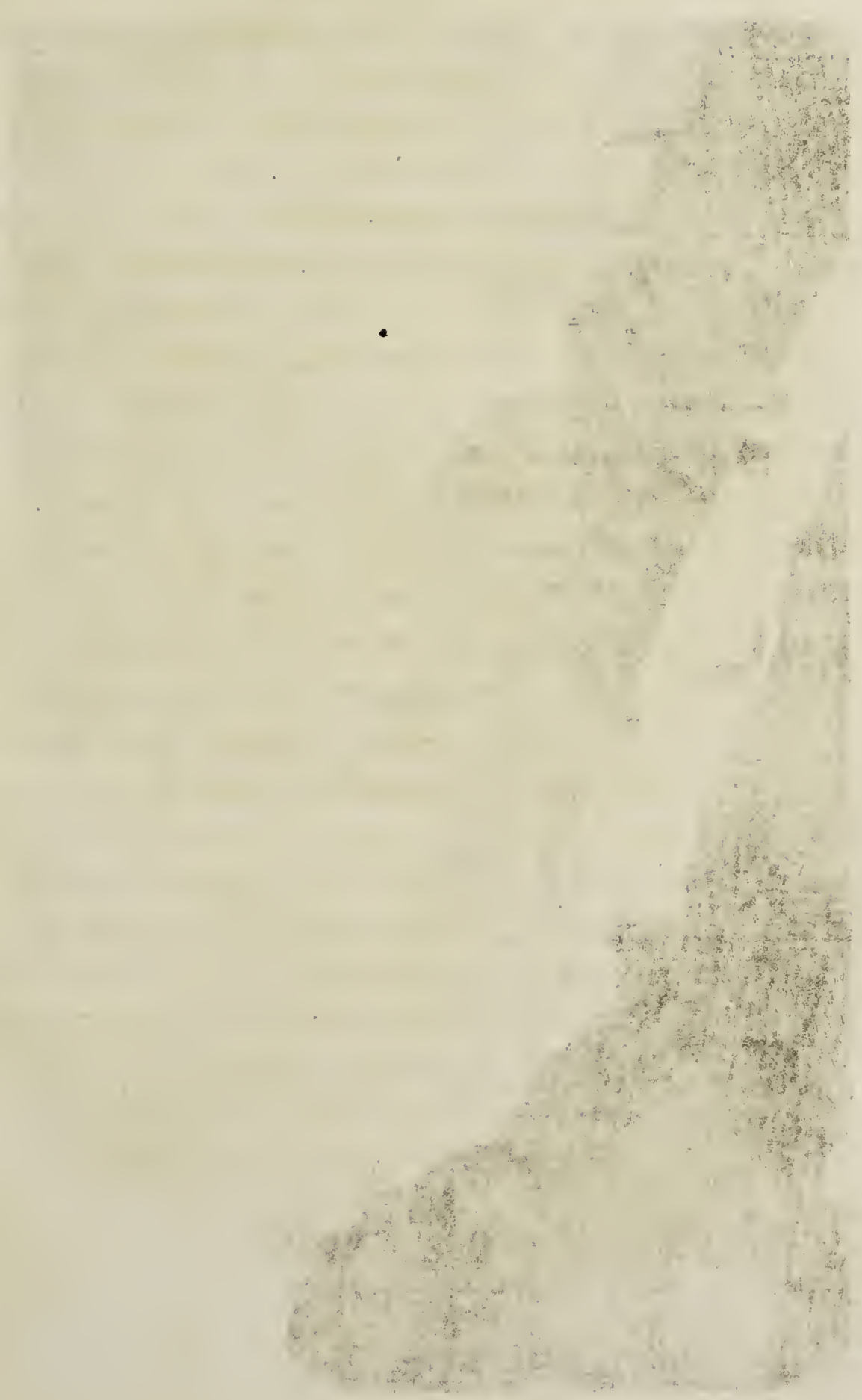
Leandro Alberti mentions sugar works existing in his time at La Bajaria, but I presume they have long been abandoned. The quantity of sugar canes now cultivated in Sicily is very inconsiderable, and Sicilian sugar is quite a rarity; it is of a good colour and quality, but from want of encouragement or industry is almost supplanted by foreign sugars. This culture is in greatest vigour on the eastern coast of Valdinoto, but might be extended to advantage in many other districts.—The canes grow to a fine size, and are very juicy—thrive almost without care—have heat and moisture enough, and neither hurricanes nor insects to apprehend; labour is dear, and hands scarce, but certainly not so much as to prevent the Sici-

Numi Soluntinorum.

Ex Ære.

1. Cap. Here—Vermis marinus. Caract. Pun.
2. Cap. imb. gal.—in laur. COAONTINωN.
3. Cap. Herculis COAONTINON—Vermis ruga 6 glob. inscrip. Punica.
4. Cap. vir. barb. laur. adhum trides COAOTINωN—Cap. imb. gal. in scuto delphin.
5. Cap. vir. barb. laur.—Vir. nudus genuflexus COAONTINωN.
6. Cap. Herc. barbâ hirsutâ—Vir nudus d. Jaculum s. clypeum tenens COAON.

lians





H. H. Johnston del.

J. Garret sculp.

MONTRÉAL.

lians from under-felling foreigners, at their own market at least.

On the 23d I rode to Monreale. An avenue of aged trees (some of which are platanes) leads from the gates of Palermo through the plain to the foot of the mountains, where it joins a magnificent road made by the late archbishop Testa. This work does honour to his taste and public spirit, for nothing is omitted that money or zeal for the good of his fellow citizens could accomplish.

The way winds easily up, supported by strong buttresses and breast works, and adorned with borders of flowering shrubs, urns, fountains and inscriptions. The lines carved upon the lowest fountain have a very classical turn; they imply that, as nothing was wanting to complete this immortal work but the name of the generous founder, the magistrates and community of Monreale have dedicated this marble to their good archbishop during his absence. Opposite is another breathing the genuine spirit of the ancient *scientia lapidaria*, vowed by the Monrealese upon the happy return of their prelate from a general visitation of his diocese. The other inscriptions are far from corresponding in taste with these; some are even barbarous and harsh beyond expression; about the middle of the ascent is a fountain, that is admirably suited to the genius of the situation. Close to the road rises a huge barren rock, out of the bowels of which a fine stream gushes with great force; the artist has rendered himself the master of
 I its

its motions, by adjusting to the original cliff large masses of rugged stone, which pen up the water into one full but irregular body ; it then dashes head-long into a capacious basin over-grown with the broad leaves of the lotus, flag and water lily. On the summit of this artificial rock is the statue of a boy armed with a hatchet, watching a serpent that seems creeping towards the water ; another boy, as if roused by the alarm, is represented climbing up with a stone in his hand, while a little girl with dismay strongly marked in every feature, is hiding herself behind the stump of a tree.

A gate terminates this grand approach to Monreale, which, though a small place, is dignified with the title of an archiepiscopal city. It is built on the brow of a very high hill ; lofty mountains hem it in on every side but the northern, on which a view opens over hanging woods of olive and orange trees to Palermo and the sea, a most extensive and noble scene.

This place owes its origin to a Benedictine convent, founded in 1174, by William the Second, enriched by grants of crown lands from the king, and by donations which he persuaded his nobles to make. In the same reign this abbey church was converted into an archiepiscopal cathedral, and the sees of Syracuse and Catania subjected to it as suffragans. It continued to encrease in wealth and splendour, 'till upon the death of Archbishop Testa, his present majesty obtained from the pope a bull, whereby the

fees of Palermo and Monreale were united, and the greatest part of the revenues of the latter set apart for the maintenance of a naval force to be employed against the Mahometan cruizers. Monsignor Testa was a Christian of the primitive church, disinterested, austere to himself, indulgent to others, and indefatigable in the duties of his high office; he despised riches, except as far as they were employed in works of public benefit, and spent his princely income in charity and useful undertakings. He left behind him no wealth, but one of those uncommon characters that meet with the admiration of all ages.

* The city is clean and neatly built, and contains above eight thousand inhabitants.

The cathedral exhibits a very disagreeable specimen of the Gothic taste. To increase its ugliness, the injudicious monks have white-washed the outside. Over the archbishop's throne is the portrait of William the Good, who lies interred in a tomb at the feet of his father, William the Bad. The latter monarch is deposited in a monument of porphyry, exactly similar to those in the dome of Palermo. Here is also a coffin containing the bowels of Lewis the Ninth, king of France, who died of the plague in his

* I apprehend the name of Monreale was given by the king who founded the monastery, but some authors seem to intimate that the mountain was known before that time by the Arabic appellation of Monrahal.

camp before Tunis in 1270, and was canonized a saint twenty-seven years after his death.

On my return to the plains I wandered into bye-roads, where the variety of evergreens made the appearance of the country round me almost as beautiful as if spring had banished winter and its dreary concomitants. I directed my steps to a large country-house of very ancient foundation, and remarkable architecture; it is called La Torre Zizza, built by the Saracens during their abode in Sicily, which places the epocha of its building as far back as the ninth or tenth century. The tale handed down by tradition is, that a sultan erected it for the purpose of confining his beautiful daughter Zizza; but as this word is said to mean *gay, flowery, decked out*, the palace may have acquired its name from its rich decoration, and fragrant gardens. Even now, when the Sicilians speak of a well dressed lady, they say she is *azizzata*.

Except the insertion of a window and a coat of arms, I believe no alterations have been attempted in this edifice by modern hands; it is a square stone tower, three stories high, of regular courses of masonry, not at all decayed by age. On each stone of the battlement is a letter hitherto unexplained, but it is probable it belongs to some alphabet used by the Saracens. The Arabians employed these capital letters in public records only, having others for the common business of society. Before the seventh century, that people wrote with many various characters, but at last
agreed



H. Sw. del.

J. Taylor sculp.

La Torre Lizza near Palermo.

agreed to adopt one particular mode of writing called the Cufick, which prevailed for three hundred years; therefore, as this building was probably erected soon after the Saracens conquered Palermo, we may presume that the inscription is conceived in the Cufick alphabet, now to be found only in the oldest Mahometan manuscripts. About the year 920, a new system of writing called Nikki was formed and introduced, which, with some variation, still continues to be the general hand-writing of the East. This villa, though almost coeval with the mosque at Cordova, differs widely from it in the character of its architecture: the windows of La Zizza are long, and rounded at the top in the old Saxon manner, instead of being pointed or arched in the form of a horse shoe. The inside is decorated with thin arches, and frosted ceilings hanging down in drops. A fountain plays in the hall, and in summer preserves a fine temperature of air, which I did not find too cool even in winter.

JOURNEY FROM PALERMO

TO

G I R G E N T I.

SECTION XXXI.

DECEMBER 23, I left Palermo provided with letters of recommendation from the archbishop to all the commissaries of the crociata, of which he is the chief. The crociata is an ecclesiastical commission established under a bull of the pope, with the power of granting licences for eating eggs, milk and cheese in lent and other penitential seasons. The price of this leave is fixed, and produces a net income to the king of one hundred and twenty thousand crowns (27000*l*.) which is expended in naval armaments against the infidels.

To these letters I was indebted for a most polite hospitable reception and good accommodations wherever I came;
the

the want of those comforts, and indeed of the necessaries of life, is generally complained of by strangers that travel in Sicily, but I should be guilty of ingratitude to the worthy prelate and my kind hosts if I did not acknowledge that I compleated my tour with the utmost ease and satisfaction.

I hired a mule for myself, a horse for my baggage, with a man to take care of it, two horses for the servants, and a Campiere or soldier of Real Capitan* for guide and protector. This cavalier was well armed and mounted; I found him an intelligent conductor, active, good natured and attentive. The whole expence was fixed at forty taris a day (15s.)

We travelled westward down the vale of Colli, which is thronged with country houses; about a third of the land is in corn and olive yards, a sixth in vineyards, and the remainder in pasture, heath, and plots of Indian fig. This defile brought us to the sea shore at the foot of a high mountain called Sferracavallo from the stoniness of the road, which runs several miles between the cliffs and the sea. The first opening presented a view of Carini, a town pleasantly situated in a fertile territory, about a mile from the

* A troop of horse established for the apprehension of robbers, and the safeguard of merchants and travellers, Whatever these soldiers may have been when former travels in Sicily were written, I am confident there is not the least ground for suspecting that they have any connexion at present with the banditti, or that passengers are indebted for their safety to any compromise between government and those villains.

strand. It contains four thousand inhabitants, and gives title of prince to the family of Grua.

A long ridge like a rampart and some remnants of a wall are said to indicate the site of Hiccará *, a city mentioned in Thucydides, as the birth-place of Lais, the most celebrated courtesan in Grecian history. She was carried off when Nicias the Athenian general landed here on his way from Italy, plundered the town, and sold the inhabitants for slaves.

Continuing my route round the bay of Carini, I crossed a long neck of rocky land, the mountains approaching very near to the shore; their sides are planted with the manna ash, and the ground at the bottom is covered with olive trees. Near the land lies the Isole delle Femine, formerly a place of banishment for criminals.

This day's journey of twenty-four miles ended at La Favarota, a town near the sea, containing two thousand people. The Benedictine monks of St. Martin, a neighbouring abbey, and the prince of Carini divide the manor between them. The produce of the territory is oil, manna, and wine, all sent to Palermo for sale. I was lodged at the house of the vicario foraneo, in a very neat apartment; my host was anxious to procure me every convenience, but so modest, that it was with difficulty I could persuade him

* Numi Hyccarenfes.

Ex Ære. 1. Caput barbatum IKAP.

Canis stans cum duobus globulis.

to favour me with his company; my entreaties could not prevail upon him to partake of my supper. He is an inferior ecclesiastical judge, and transacts all the parochial business relative to tythes, dues, &c. while another priest called *il paroco amministratore*, performs the sacerdotal functions. At sunset, as I was standing at the door, a dozen girls came dancing up to the sound of a tambourine and fife, and, after a short song, presented me with a nosegay of flowers. I offered them money, but they shook their heads, and one after another seized my hand, kissed it, and danced away. I asked the vicar, who was near me, if it would not have been proper in me to have saluted them all round. He laughed, and told me in his country such civilities were never shewn in public; but, if I wished to oblige the young women, I might send a servant with a present to the chapel of their confraternity, and they would pray next morning for my safe journey. When I afterwards observed to the priest's old housekeeper, as I sat down to supper, that I wondered what was become of my servants, she gave me a very significant look, and said they were gone to make the offering for me, and to see that the girls said their prayers properly. Upon my hinting that they might be upon a service of danger, she smiled, and replied, that it was natural enough for me, being a stranger, to entertain such fears and recollect the Sicilian Vespers, but that such apprehensions were now entirely groundless;

groundless; for, thank heaven, a woman's chastity was no longer guarded by swords and daggers.

December 24. From this place I travelled on up high rocky land impending over the sea, and hemmed in very close by a lofty mountain, on the sides of which grew large thickets of manna ash. The low grounds are cultivated with industry, and produce various sorts of fruit; the vines are propped up with reeds. Before winter begins, a large shallow trench is cast out round each root, and filled up again when spring approaches. As there is no extreme frost or even cold to apprehend, the plant acquires fresh health and vigour by having its roots thus exposed to the air.

After a long ride in a southern direction, we turned towards the bottom of the deep bay of Castelamare, formed by the capes of Sferra cavallo and San Vito. The vale stretches to the left many miles into the inland country, and displays a fine track of arable grounds, with farm-houses on the hills, and a few groves of olive and carobbean trees. The large-berried juniper or oxycedrus grows here abundantly; as also a small rose-coloured lychnis, one of the prettiest of its tribe. We now left the sea shore, and penetrated into the country, which is very hilly; the soil a deep clay or strong rich loam; the whole appearance of the landscape so exactly similar to that of the plains of Puebla in Andalusia, that I almost thought myself once more in Spain. Much corn is produced here, but a large portion of the tillage land is sown with beans, which the farmers
were

were then busy putting into the ground; they lay two or three beans upon a lump of dung in each hole, and then with a small hoe pull the mould in upon them. Alcamo was our next stage, twenty-one miles from La Favarotta. It is a considerable place of eight thousand five hundred souls, situated on high ground, in a fine open cultivated country, itself well sheltered by large woods of olive trees. The streets are built in strait lines, but are very uneven and dirty. As the day was both windy and rainy, the inhabitants were muffled up in black or brown furtouts, with peaked hoods; at first sight of them, I thought all the friars of Sicily were assembled in this town.

Alcamo took its name from Adalcam the caliph's lieutenant, who in 827 conquered Sicily. That his forces might have place a of defence to retire to, in case of any unfortunate turn of affairs, he erected a fortress on the heights of Monte Bonifati, where some traces of its walls may yet be seen. Frederick of Swabia, having obliged the Saracens to march out of their castles, and pass over into Puglia, destroyed this fort, and brought the Christian inhabitants down to the foot of the rocks, where he built the present burgh of Alcamo for their reception.

I lodged at the archpriest's, a very polite clergyman. He invited the principal gentlemen of the town to supper, which was good, and served up in handsome plate, no mean sample of the richness of the benefice. The company was well bred and appeared conversant in various branches

branches of literature; one gentleman had a numerous collection of medals, which he would not part with for money, but according to the Italian custom, pressed them upon me as a present.

* Before our repast I visited the churches and other public buildings. Alcamo is divided into two parishes; at the head of the largest the archpriest presides over fourteen chaplains. His church is modern and neatly fitted up, but too narrow. The nave is divided from the isles by columns of red marble brought from a neighbouring quarry. Pietro Novello, commonly called Il Morrealese, and the Raphael of Sicily, has adorned it with some good pictures, and Gagini with alto-relievos of great merit, especially as to expression in the heads.

The view from the skirts of the town is superb every way.

The best land hereabouts is sown with corn, the middling sort planted with vines, and myrtle-leaved sumack is cultivated on soils of a still inferior nature; its leaves and flowers are stripped off the bush, dried, pounded to

* Alcamo was first alienated in favour of John duke of Randazzo, a prince of the blood royal of Arragon. Peralta married his heiress; it then passed to the Chiaromonti or Clermonts of Norman extraction, long at the head of the Sicilian nobility; Andrew was the last. He was beheaded for rebellion against Martin the First, who gave this estate to Ventimiglia another powerful house. It then went successively to several Spanish families, and now belongs to the duke of Ferrandina heir to the possessions of Toledo duke of Alba.

powder,

powder, and exported in bags for the purpose of tanning fine leather; the plants are set in the shade of olive trees, and remain in vigour about twenty years.

SECTION XXXII.

D E C E M B E R 25. A hilly deep road over a high arable country, ten miles to Calatafimi, a large ugly town, belonging to the proprietor of Alcamo, and containing eight thousand souls. The environs are well cultivated, and some vineyards and orchards enliven this large track of corn land. Its castle, now in ruins, stands on the summit of a hill in a commanding situation.

Having deposited my baggage, and ordered my supper, I rode down into a low valley, by a disagreeable dangerous path, which was scarce practicable even for my cautious mule. At the foot of the mountain, I forded the river of San Bartolomeo, supposed to be the Crimifus * of the ancients, so famous for its god, who, in the shape of a dog, found favour in the eyes of the nymph Segesta, and is represented in that form upon the Segestan coins. I then

* Cluvier thinks that the Belici was the Crimifus, as being by its size and depth better suited to the description given us of the victory obtained on its banks by Timoleon over the Carthaginians. But I think the Belici is too far distant from Segesta to have been comprised within the limits of that republic, and therefore not likely to figure either in its political or numismatical history.

proceeded about two miles over moist stony pastures to a place called Barbara, where stood the city of Egesta or Segesta founded by the Trojans. It was subdued by the Carthaginians, and often laid in ruins, but, from the happiness of its situation, and the divisions among its enemies, recovered from every blow, 'till the general desolation that attended the Saracenic or the Norman conquest; for all is obscure in the chronicles of those ages. It was then completely destroyed. I was astonished that so few of the materials, with which the city was built, should now remain on the spot. To carry them off for purposes of building elsewhere seems an enterprise of too great labour and too little advantage to be assigned as a cause of their no longer existing, nor are there towns or houses enough in the neighbourhood to have employed the stones. The nature of the stone is too compact for the air and weather alone to dissolve.

Nothing could be more judiciously chosen than the situation of Segesta; it lay upon a ridge of hills gently sloping towards the northern aspect, sheltered on the southern and eastern quarters by high rocky eminences, at the foot of which two roaring brooks winded their course and embraced the city. While Segesta was in a flourishing state, its environs populous, and well cultivated, the aspect of the country must have been delightful; the pestilential suffocating blasts, that rush over the seas from the hot sands of Africa, could not reach this protected vale, while the whole-
some

some north wind had free admittance to refresh and purify the atmosphere.

The walls appear in many places. The emporium was at the mouth of the river, near the spot where Castellamare now stands. Segesta had the advantage of hot mineral waters within its district, which are still used for medical purposes. The form of its theatre is discernible, some cisterns and foundations of houses occur along the declivity. On the brow of a lofty rock impending perpendicularly over the river, and at the eastern extremity of the city, is to be seen a most noble well-preserved monument of ancient magnificence; on this bold cliff rises a Doric temple of thirty-six columns, all, except one, perfectly entire; the damaged column suffered with part of the pediment by a stroke of lightning. This edifice is a parallelogram of 162 feet by 66. The colonnade stands upon one common plinth, or range of stone, which is cut through, as for an entrance, at the last intercolumniations of each flank. In the fronts it is so between all the pillars; within, at every intercolumniation a recess of half a diameter is left as a niche for a statue, or an altar; the columns are of a longer proportion than those of Pæstum, and therefore I suppose this temple is of a later date; they taper very much, being six feet in diameter below, and four only at top, without any swell in the middle; they have no base, but there is a groove near their bottom, in which it appears that there has been a metal rim fixed with nails; it is pro-

bable that the architects of ages subsequent to its foundation, being desirous of accommodating this old Doric style to their customary rules for expressing that order, had fastened a brass base round each column. The capitals are simple, but the denticules and drops of the entablature have a more modern appearance than those of the Pæstian ruins. The architrave is built with one large upright stone over the center of the column between two very long flat ones that reach from one capital or the other. The frieze and architrave are entire all round, and, except in the pediments, so is the cornice. There is no inner wall or cella, nor any vestige of a roof; hence, some observers have concluded that this building was never finished, and was, perhaps, the very temple which the Segestans obtained leave from Tiberius Cæsar to erect; but unless that people followed scrupulously the rules and proportions handed down to them by their ancestors, without adopting the variations introduced into the art by modern architects, the style of this temple marks an earlier period than the æra of the Cæsars. As roofs are generally composed of timber, lead, copper, tiles or slates, it is easy to conceive how such materials may have been purloined or destroyed, though the solidity of the columns have resisted all attacks of time and foes.

The pediments are much injured; the northern aspect is corroded by the weather; the stone being a porous grey marine concretion. The clear colour and majestic disposition

sition of so many columns, on which light and shade are cast in various directions, and the insulated situation of so grand a building on a bold eminence in the midst of a desert, have something singularly awful and sublime in their effect.*

Having spent the best part of the day in examining, measuring and drawing this noble building, I hastened

* Numi Segestanorum.

Ex Argento.

1. Caput mulieb. diad. ΣΕΓΕΣΤ——Canis.
2. Cap. mul.——Canis. arista ΣΕΓΕΣΤΑΤΙ.
3. Cap. mul. ΣΕΓΕΣΤΑ ΤΙΒ——Canis.
4. Cap. Pall. gal.——Hercules clavæ inn. ΕΣΤΑΕ.
5. In corona hed. cap. mul.——Canis et concha ΣΕΓΕΣΤΑΙ ΝΟ.
6. Cap. imb. pleno vultu ΣΕΓΕΣΤΑ ΤΙΒ——Canis flos.
7. Hercules arcum tend. clava symb. Trinacriæ ΕΓΕΣΤΑΙΩΝ.——Duo viri nudi faccum tenentes ΨΟΦΟΔ.

Ex Ære.

1. Cap. mul. turrit.——Æneas Anchisen porlans d Enfem. poné columba——ΕΓΕΣΤΑΙΩΝ.
2. Idem.——Vir stans.
3. Cap. Herculis——Arcus et pharetra ΣΕ.

From the inscriptions upon three of these silver coins it seems as if Segesta had assumed the additional name of Tiberiana in honour of the emperor, who gave this city some particular marks of his favour.

Measures of the Temple.

Length	——	162 feet
Breadth	———	66
Intercolumniations		6
Diameter of columns		6
Breadth of the steps		1 foot 8 inches.

back

back to Calatafimi, as eager for refreshment as I had been in the morning for antiquities. I found the best fare provided for me the place could afford; the lodging, however, was old, crazy and cold, but the owners so civil and attentive, that it was impossible to complain of any inconveniences; the master of the house was a notary and his wife one of the prettiest women I had yet seen in Sicily; I was afterwards distressed beyond measure to learn, that they had not suffered my man to pay for the least thing, and had sitten up all night to accommodate us with beds. To enliven the evening conversation, they invited the principal people of the town with their wives, who were very free and sociable; this rather surprized me, as many travellers, and those very modern ones, tell us, that the Sicilians are so jealous and severe to their wives, that they never suffer them to come into the company of strangers, much less to join in conversation with them. I suspect these persons have copied authors who wrote in times, when such mistrust reigned more than it does at present, or have formed general inductions from partial evidence. There seems to be very little constraint laid upon the intercourse of the two sexes among the nobility at Palermo, and none among my visitors at Calatafimi, people of a lower class; the observation, therefore, does not hold good in every instance. The assembly was very attentive to all my words and motions, that they might anticipate my wishes and save me trouble;

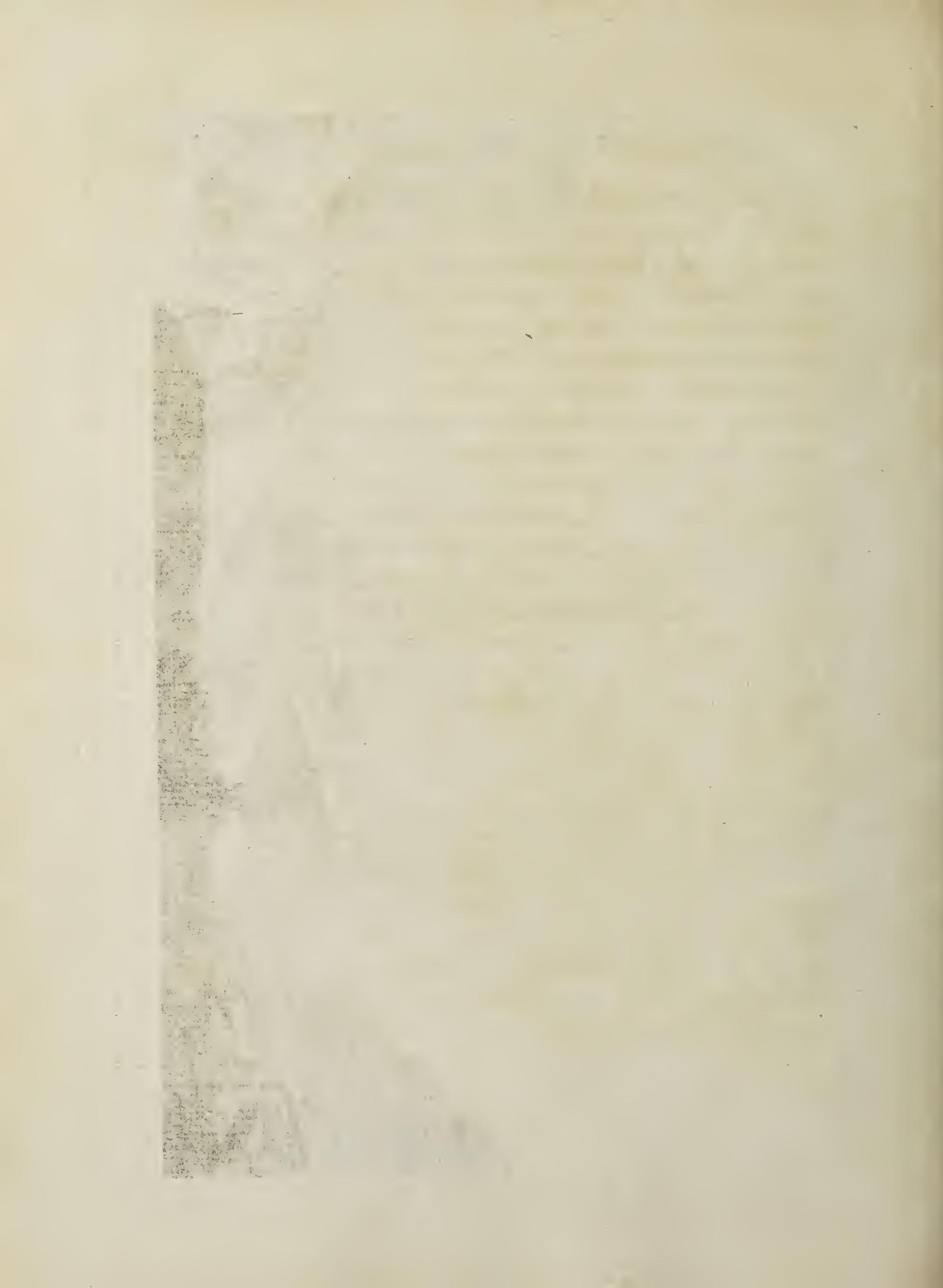
2



Castle of Calatutimi.
Temple of Segesta.

View of the Country near Segesta.

Cape San Vito.



ble ; but their civility was of an unpolished kind ; I was frequently the subject of their discourse, and those that knew any thing about me, either from the archbishop's letter or from my servants, communicated their knowledge aloud to every new comer, as if I were deaf or did not understand their language. An old gentleman, the wit of the circle, put many questions to me, and in return acquainted me with the politics and scandal of the town ; he was possessed of great chearfulness and native humour, but so totally ignorant of every thing and place beyond the limits of Sicily, that I never could make him comprehend where England is situated, or how circumstanced with regard to its colonies, of which he had learned something from the gazettes. Finding my answers to his questions were incapable of conveying instruction, I gave myself no farther trouble, but suffered him without interruption to smoke his pipe, and in the intervals of his puffing to run on in a long string of stories, confounding times, names, places and persons, in so ludicrous a manner, that the most inflexible features must have been betrayed into a smile—Fortunately he took my laugh for a compliment, and joined very heartily in it.

SECTION XXXIII.

DECEMBER 26. The next morning being, as the night had been, cold and stormy, the peasants went to church in short dark furtouts with capuchin hoods, which, added to their swarthy complexions, sour looks, and greasy frizzled hair, composed the blackest congregation I ever beheld.

The road from Calatafimi is extremely steep and clayey ; a few inclosures surround the town, but at a small distance commences a very mountainous country covered with grass, and destitute of trees. The temple of Segesta makes a noble appearance on a verdant knoll embosomed in the lofty hills.

* Salemi was the first place I saw ; it lies to the west of the road in a hilly corn country, quite bare of wood ; a considerable portion of this town was not many years ago thrown by an earthquake into a precipice.

We now began to climb the heights that form the point of division between the northern and southern parts of the Val di Mazzara ; the rocks lie here at day shining like diamonds, being composed of talc and gypsum. The soil is amazingly fertile, and the pastures rich in herbage ;

* Anciently Halycia. Both names allude to the saltiness of its waters and soil.

the lands, upon which wheat had been reaped the preceding season, were covered with such a luxuriant crop sprung from the seeds scattered in gathering, that it was difficult to distinguish them from the grounds where the grain had been actually sown, and was shooting up for the ensuing harvest; the difference was only discernible by the cattle being suffered to feed and lie upon the stubble, if I may give it so improper a name.

After a long ride up and down many tedious hills, we at last arrived at a very lofty point, which afforded a more animated prospect. To the east I descried the town of Santa Nimfa, and beyond it a vast track of verdant hills bounded by the high Erean mountains, on one of which, a conical peak called Busambra, some snow was lying: To the south I had the pleasure of contemplating the African sea, and before it an enchanting range of woody vales and party-coloured plains. Partana and other large towns appear placed on the verge of the highlands, commanding an immense land and sea view. It is to be remarked that most baronial towns are thus built on eminences at a distance from the shore, and out of the reach of sudden invasion; royal burghs, having stronger fortifications and regular garrisons or militia, stand more venturously on the edge of the sea.

After an eight hours journey through a naked bleak country, my heart dilated with pleasure on the approach

of the fruitful regions I saw before us as we travelled down to Castel Vetrano.

This is a fief belonging to Pignatelli duke of Monteleone,* and now contains twelve thousand souls. I was told that its population has for many years been decreasing with fatal rapidity ; and that the causes lie deep in the bad administration of the agents intrusted with the concerns of the duke, and in the decay of its wine trade. The wine has fallen considerably in esteem from injudicious practices followed of late years by the vintagers, who mix all sorts of grapes promiscuously together, in order to make a larger quantity of wine, and save expence and labour, and thereby enable themselves the more easily and speedily to satisfy the demands made upon them. Formerly they took great care in selecting the best sorts of grapes, and in making their wines, which were incomparably fine, as I may pronounce from the sample I have tasted of their old stock ; in colour they resemble Madeira, and in flavour and strength equal the best sherry. An old proprietor informed me that the strength of the liquor depended on the close pruning of the vine—The vine-dressers set their plants in holes bored with an augre that has a large heavy handle like a barrel ; the stems are supported by reeds.

* The first lord of Castel Vetrano was Thomas Corvino, in the time of Frederick the Second of Arragon—Then it was given to the house of Tagliavia ; but in 1652 the heiress of that branch conveyed it to the Pignatelli.

In the arable lands are some poor farm houses, and many straw huts built in a conical form for herdsmen to watch their cattle in. Husbandmen plough their land with oxen, one pair of which is yoked to the plough each morning, and another pair takes their place in the afternoon; if all the ploughs I saw at work in one field had belonged to the person that farms it, his stock of cattle would have exceeded all bounds, for I counted twenty-four ploughs at work together; but it is usual among the farmers to hire and borrow oxen as their tillage requires it. Throughout the wide extent of pastures, I observed no buildings except a few cottages near the wells. In the neighbourhood of the town, dwellings are rather more closely set, and the lands fenced with stone walls. All labour in these inclosures is performed with the hoe, by which mode of husbandry considerable quantities of wheat, beans, and flax are raised.

Castel Vetrano is a large burgh, well built with stone, the streets spacious, and disposed with attention to regularity. Some convents and private houses make a good appearance; the feudal mansion is a large handsome building, but from long neglect, begins to shew signs of decay.

I lodged at the house of a canon, but as he was absent upon duty at Mazzara, and as his sister in law could not in decency suffer herself to be seen on account of the recent loss of her husband, I was committed to the care of a civil old servant; the house was furnished like the mansion of a decayed country gentleman, with heavy chairs and tables,

and pieces of tarnished gilding on the walls, remnants of ancient finery.

SECTION XXXIV.

D E C E M B E R 27. I rode seven miles into the south vale, a rich inclosed district like the country round Naples; it is watered by the Madiuni, a clear romantic stream; the rising grounds are planted with vines and olive trees, while orange groves shade the low lands; among these are some mulberry stocks, on which the orange is grafted, and produces fruit with a blood-coloured pulp. As I approached the sea, the face of the country altered to smooth green swells with tufts of lentiscus, but no trees. The river passes through a long line of hills, which exhibit the most extraordinary assemblage of ruins in Europe, the remains of Selinus; they lie in several stupendous heaps with many columns still erect, and at a distance resemble a large town with a crowd of steeples; my servants took them for such, and were quite rejoiced at the thoughts of the very grand city they were coming to; nothing could exceed their disappointment when they reached the top of the hill, and found silence and desolation, where they expected busy crowds and the noisy hurry of a populous place. The body of the town stood on a ridge west of the river and near the sea, where the present

2

watch

watch tower is built ; the harbour was at the mouth of the Madiuni ; some of the walls of its mole are still existing above the sands. The eastern hill, which seems not to have been within the walls, is not commanded by any other point of land, and falls with a rapid slope towards the sea, going off in much more gentle declivity on the north side ; the top is a very extensive level, on which lie the shattered members of three Doric temples, thirty yards asunder, in a direct line from north to south.

The most northerly temple, which was Pseudodipteros, exceeded the others very much in dimensions and majesty, and now composes one of the most gigantic and sublime ruins imaginable. The columns of the pronaos, which fronted the rising sun, are fluted, those that supported the sides of the temple plain ; one of the former and two of the latter are still standing, though not entire ; the capital and entablement are totally overturned. The columns measure nine feet three inches in diameter at bottom, and six feet three inches below the capital. I believe their total height did not exceed five diameters or fifty feet. The capitals are of one solid block, uncommonly bulky in the semiglobular part called the ovolo. Although these noble ruins be tumbled together in great confusion, and the means of measuring their extent be difficult, I think I may pronounce from the measures I took, that the length of the whole edifice was about three hundred and thirty feet, and its breadth thirty-nine.

The

The second temple is ruined with more order, and is easily described; it had six columns in the fronts and eleven on each side, in all thirty-four; their diameter is five feet; they were all fluted, and most of them now remain standing as high as the second course of stones.

The pillars of the third temple were also fluted, and have fallen down so very entire, that the five pieces which composed them lie almost close to each other, in the order they were placed in when upright; the cella does not exceed the vestibule in extent.

All these temples are of the old Doric order, without a base, and of a much more massive proportion than the Segestan edifice. The two lesser temples are more delicate in their parts and ornaments than the principal ruin; the stone, of which they are all composed, is smooth and yellowish, and was brought from the quarries of Castelfranco, seven miles off.*

It is said that the city was destroyed by the Carthaginians, and that these proud fanes were levelled to the ground by the hand of man; but it is at least as probable that they were shaken and overthrown by an earthquake; their prodigious volume must have rendered it a difficult task to overset them, and the regularity, with which the columns of the smaller temples are thrown down argues the effect

* There are other ruins and broken columns dispersed over the site of the town, but none equal to these.

of some uniform general concussion. It is hard to attribute such devastation solely to human malice; and whoever beholds these enormous masses, scattered in heaps upon the plain, must of course accuse nature of having had some share in this victory over the pride of art.

* Selinus was a colony of the Hyblæan Megara, and took its name from the great quantity of wild parsley † that

* Numi Selinuntinorum.

Ex Argento.

1. Cap. mulieb. oculis stupentibus sparsis crinibus—Canis ΣΕΛΙΝΟΝ.
2. Fig. viril. stans d. pater offer. supra aram subter quâ gallus. s. ramum ten. A tergo substructio in qua bos et supra pampinus ΣΕΛΙΝΟΝΤ—Figuræ duæ viril. bigis insidentes—Alter haben. regit alter arcum tendit radiato capite ΣΕΛΙΝΟΝΤ.
3. Bos cum vultu humano et uno cornu vitis fol. ΣΕΛΙΝΟΝΤΙΟΝ—mul. seminuda sed crocodilo d. anguem ten. ad pedes triquetra.
4. Vir nud. d. pat. s. bacul. ante ara cum serpente pone cap. bov. et vitis fol. ΣΕΛΙΝΟΝΤΙ—
Hercules nudus clav. Taurum domans.
5. Hercules id. ΣΕΛΙΝΟΝΤΙΟΝ—Vir nud d. pat. sup. alt. effund. in qua Σ et s in corollam ten. à terg. galina et vit. fol. ΑΣ.
6. Hercules et Taurus ΣΕΛΙΝΟΝΤΙΟΝ—Vir nud. stans d pat. fol. ΗΥΑΣ.

Ex Ære.

1. Planta palmæ sylvestris S.

† Selinum, or milky parsley, rises to the height of four feet; its leaves resemble those of fennel giant; the flowers are yellow, and grow in umbels. Linn. gen. pl. 337. cl. 5. ord. 2

measures

that grows in the neighbourhood*; it was a flourishing state during the period of four centuries, till it was taken and destroyed by Hannibal a Carthaginian general, in the 359th year of Rome. This city did not recover from its calamities under Roman government, for Strabo speaks of it as uninhabited. Selinus must, however, have risen out of its ashes during the lower empire, for it is mentioned as one of the first considerable places taken by the Saracens, and one of the last they abandoned. It was razed to the ground by the Normans.

I had laid a plan of passing the night near these venerable

Measures of the largest Temple.

Length of pronaos	—	132 feet.
Breadth of pronaos	—	33 —
Length of cella	—	200 —
Breadth of cella	—	39 —
Diameter of columns		9 —
Total length with the step.		270 —
Total breadth	—	134 —

* Virgil gives the epithet of *Palmosa* to Selinus, and perhaps in his time, these hills were crowned with groves of those towering trees. At present, not one is to be seen, and I am almost tempted to think that the poet alluded to the dwarf palm, or palmetto, which actually covers the waste lands of these environs as thick as furze or broom does our commons in England. Cluvier says Selinus produces insignes palmas sylvestres.—I am afraid he copied Virgil, without reflection, as Fazellus, who lived a century before him, positively asserts, that whatever there might have been in Virgil's time, there were no palms in his, except of the small wild kind. The palmetto is called *giumara* by the Sicilians, who eat its fruit, though mawkish, make ropes and nets of its stalks, brooms of its leaves, and good fattening fodder for their cattle of the whole plant.

relics

relics of remote antiquity that I might have more leisure to examine them, and also enjoy the pleasure of viewing them in all the tints and shades cast upon them by the rays of departing day, the beams of the moon, and the first dawn of the ensuing morning, but the holiday diversions and ceremonies had carried away every inhabitant of the farm houses—I was therefore necessitated to return to Castel vetrano.

December 28. Early next morning I revisited these ruins with fresh satisfaction, and spent the greatest part of the day in wandering among them. In the afternoon I continued my journey towards the eastern part of the island along the hills above the sands. They are overgrown with the lentiscus or mastick tree. We descended gradually into some marshes that render the country very unwholesome in autumn, and came to the river Belici, which I expected to pass without difficulty; but my guides were so intimidated by a deep plunge the soldier's horse made in attempting the ford, that all my rhetoric and promises were ineffectual, though I offered to lead the way on the horse, for a mule is a dangerous beast to trust to on such an occasion. Finding it impossible to bring them into my measures, I acquiesced in theirs, and remounted the course of the river some miles to a bridge. The Belici resembles the river Mole of Surry in size and colour, and winds very agreeably between high banks over-grown with elms, willows, and tamarisks. The vale on both sides wide and well laid

out in corn fields, and pastures crowded with horses and horned cattle. We scarce took a step, without springing partridges or water-fowl. The coast behind us was bleak and bare, where the fury of the waves is restrained by low sandy downs covered with short yellow grass, and frequently indented by creeks and inlets. From the bridge, we travelled through a hilly country, and forests of cork-tree to a town called Memfrici, which reckons 2700 inhabitants, belongs to the duke of Monteleone, and, jointly with Castelvetrana, gives him an income of thirty-five thousand crowns.

SECTION XXXV.

D E C E M B E R 29. Hills bare of wood; much corn; the soil a rich loam. We descended into a small plain, where rice is cultivated on the banks of the little river Carabi. The country beyond grew very hilly, and more inclosed with olive plantations—the soil a mixture of sand and clay. When we approached Sciacca, which is twelve miles from the last stage, the duke of Tagliavia, having been previously informed by my campiere that I had letters of recommendation to him, met me out of town in his coach, and lodged me in his own house. His family were once lords of Castelvetrano and Memfrici, but those estates were transferred to other families

milies by marriage. The principal persons of the town were invited to meet me, and a most splendid entertainment was served up. I found the Sicilian cookery entirely different from that of France or England; sugar and spices were predominant in almost every dish.

* Sciacca, which derives its present denomination from the Arabic word *scheich*, a chieftain, is a place of very old date in history, being mentioned in the account of the wars between the Greeks and the Carthaginians as belonging to the latter. Earl Roger gave it as a portion with his daughter Juliet, who was first married to Robert Zamperon, and secondly to Gilbert Perollo de Perignon. In the reign of Martin and Mary, the heiress of the house of Peralta, a lady of rare beauty, and ample possessions, was wooed by two of the most accomplished youths in Sicily, Artale de Luna, and James Perollo, a descendant of Gilbert. The king, who was partial to Luna as being a Spaniard, prevailed upon the lady to give her hand to him, in preference to the Sicilian. This disappointment excited such rage and hatred in Perollo's breast, that nothing could allay it but the blood of his fortunate rival; he accordingly attempted to cut him off by open violence; but found him too well prepared, and force opposed to force; he then took a more secret and a surer revenge, and destroyed Luna by poison. This infamous deed entailed discord and ruin upon both families; but a

* Anciently, *Thermæ Selinuntiaë*.

kind of sullen quiet reigned till Artale's son, Antonio, came to an age fit for the command of a party; he then meditated vengeance for his father's murder, and began a civil war at Sciacca, that was carried on with the most cruel inveteracy. Almost the whole city took part in the dissention, and was deeply involved in horror and desolation by this first tumult, called the first *Caso di Sciacca*. Peter Perollo, the inheritor of his father's quarrel, attacked and wounded Antonio by night, but did not succeed in killing him. Antonio was no sooner recovered of his wounds, than he retaliated the outrage with fire and sword upon the lives and properties of the Perollians. Their chief, with great difficulty, saved himself by flight; the streets of Sciacca swam with blood; its principal edifices were yielded a prey to the flames, and neutrality was no longer a protection. Matters being gone such lengths, the neutral citizens, justly alarmed at the licentiousness and cruelty of those party-bravos, whose swords, once fleshed, were not likely to be soon returned to the scabbard, called upon government for assistance.

The viceroy gave it effectually; peace was restored, and both the leaders of the fray sentenced to perpetual banishment. Thus Sciacca enjoyed a respite from its woes, till a fresh disturbance was raised by the next generation of the rival families. James Perollo, who appears to have been a gentleman of high endowments, ingratiated himself with the viceroy, and, proud of his favour, carried himself

himself at Sciacca with such disdainful and insulting haughtiness, that he roused the dormant spirit of Sigismund de Luna; this youth was naturally of a timid modest disposition, and might have contented himself with obscure tranquillity, had not the pride of his hereditary foe excited his indignation and that of his friends; they suddenly flew to arms, and assaulted the castle where Perollo resided; the defence was weak, and the gates stormed, but Perollo found means to escape before the assailants could force the passage. He was, however, pursued, overtaken, and by Luna's express orders butchered in cool blood. This was the second Caso di Sciacca.

The emperor Charles the Fifth, who then filled the throne of Sicily, was not of a temper to brook such a daring violation of law and order, and proper measures were immediately taken to bring the offenders to condign punishment. Luna saw the storm approaching, and conscious of his inability to resist it, left Sicily, and took sanctuary in the papal dominions. Every interest was employed, every recommendation procured to obtain a pardon, but the sovereign persisted in a just denial; the wretched culprit, deprived of fortune, and overwhelmed with despair, threw himself headlong into the Tyber, and there buried all his earthly sorrows.

Sciacca is defended by ancient walls and the castle of Luna. It stands upon a very steep rock, hanging over the sea, and excavated in every direction into prodigious magazines,

zines, where the corn of the neighbouring territory is deposited for exportation ; there is no harbour, but a small bay formed by a wooden pier, where lighters lie to load the corn which they carry out about a mile to ships at anchor.

As the southern coast is naturally destitute of havens, and the adjacent lands exceed the rest of the island in abundance of grain, it has been found necessary to establish at various towns caricatori or loading places in order to facilitate the corn trade ; each caricatore has spacious granaries belonging to government, to which all persons whatever may bring their corn at their own charge ; the corn is lodged in these public reservoirs, and a receipt given to the owners for the quantity ; this acknowledgment is negotiable during twelve months, in which space of time the holder may export all or part of his stock just as it suits his interest, on paying eighteen taris duty for every salma of wheat. The caricatore runs all risks, and bears all expences incurred by taking care of the deposit, and repays itself by the increase of measure, which corn acquires in the granary, in the proportion of six per cent. and by the exportation duty. This institution, which does not exist in Naples, is esteemed of infinite advantage to Sicily, where the difficulties of obtaining a permit or leave to export are much more easily removed ; but I must not dissemble that there is still a suspicion of partiality and collusion in the distribution of those licences, tending to
2 favour

favour the rich and great, and to reduce exportation to a monopoly; to balance this account, the farmers and middling proprietors contrive, by means of correspondences with foreigners, to smuggle a considerable quantity of corn out of the country, without paying any duty.

The tribunal of Real Patrimonio has the superintendency of these permits, which it grants upon application, after an account has been taken of the crops, and the reserve for home consumption settled; the late permissions have almost doubled the incomes of the Sicilian landholders, whose customary mode of letting their lands is to take four *salma* of wheat for every *salma* of land, so that the price of corn determines the amount of the annual income. From two ounces eighteen *taris* per *salma* wheat has risen to three ounces four *taris*. This advance has stimulated the husbandman to plough every corner of his good land, and even to force the shallow soil of his rocky wastes to yield a crop; but tillage is performed in a slovenly superficial manner.

SECTION XXXVI.

THE town is irregularly but substantially built, and contains thirteen thousand inhabitants, as the chief persons among them informed me, though Amico's *Lexicon Topographicum* says the last enumeration found only nine thousand four hundred and eighty-four.—His accounts

counts do not take in ecclesiastics, and several denominations of lay persons.

The mother church was built by Juliet of Hauteville, and has little to recommend it in the eyes even of a lover of the antiquities of the middle ages. The buildings erected under the auspices of the Norman conquerors are generally very heavy.

In the churches I found some pictures by artists of the island; the ceiling of the Giumara, a convent of Benedictine nuns, would be admired even in cities that boast of greater names in painting, and display greater riches of the kind. Some figures of Apostles in the same place claim attention on account of their bold strong colouring, and their being the production of a living painter;* his attitudes are rather affected. A picture of the Madonna attracted my notice, as being painted by Don Gaspare Tef-toni, an amateur resident in this his native town; we paid an evening visit to this old gentleman, who received us with affability, and brought out his portfolio with great complaisance; his excellency lies in the heads of old men and academy figures; he made me a present of a Cupid that has considerable merit both in design and colour. His brother, a clergyman, entertained us very agreeably with his performance upon the guitar, accompanied by two

* M. Rossi, actually engaged in painting the largest historical subject in Italy, the triumph of Camillus, on the ceiling of the great hall in the Villa Borghese near Rome.

violins with mutes; he has made many improvements upon the instrument, and played some very pleasing plaintive music. I here met with another genius in a different line; his name is Bentevenga, his profession, the law; without any assistance but a few books and prints, he has taught himself the principles of optics; has made telescopes and microscopes in astonishing perfection, by dint of perseverance and great natural sagacity: has turned a lens of very small diameter, with which he has detected the errors of Padre de la Torre's opinion, who supposes the globules of blood to be perforated.

In the garden of the Austin friars I saw several large pistachia nut trees, called in Sicilian scornabecco, and the fruit fastugo. These trees are of Linnæus's dioecia pentandria, and produce male and female flowers upon different distinct plants. The latter prove barren and useless, unless rendered fruitful by the aspersions of the pollen from a male plant, and, therefore, the purposes of fecundity can only be answered by trees of different sexes being set near each other. In these gardens are many of the female kind, and only one of the male, which has small oblong blunt leaves of a dusky green, the flowers thick, and in bunches; the female blossoms are more scattered, the leaves larger, harder, rounder, and of a lighter colour; the male flowers first, and some gardeners pluck them when shut, dry them

* Pistachia Sicula trifolia fol. sulturn. nigricantibus. Lin. cl. 22. ord. 4.

and afterwards sprinkle the dust over the female tree. But the method usually followed in Sicily, when the trees are far asunder, is to wait till the female buds are open, and then to gather bunches of male blossoms ready to blow; these are stuck into a pot of moist mould, and hung upon the female tree, till they are quite dry and empty; this operation is called *tuchiarare*, and never fails to produce fructification; sometimes the gardeners ingraft the male bud upon the female tree.

The Grecian name of this place implied hot mineral waters, and the identity of the situation is proved by the very strong springs that rise at the eastern foot of the hill; they gush out of a white clay which lies upon a stratum of chalky stone. Within a very narrow compass I reckoned five fountains, one of them impregnated with sulphur, hot enough to boil an egg. This is used in cases of cutaneous and scorbutic habits, paralytic affections, &c. and is made to run into two courts, where men and women bathe separately. Another, called the aqua fanta is luke-warm, insipid to the palate, and very powerfully purgative; a third is quite cold, and peculiarly esteemed for removing disorders in the eyes. The others have no particular taste or virtue; I was informed that upon digging near this place to the depth of two feet, a very cold salt water appears. These waters have the same effects as those that flow out of the Solfatara, or lake of Zenobia, below Tivoli; for, in running towards the sea, they leave so thick and
lapideous

lapideous a sediment, that in a very short time it is converted into a hard stone, or travertino*. Behind the wells are fragments of the conduits, pipes and buildings which were made by the ancients for the service of the baths. These waters most probably correspond with the bowels of the mountain of St. Calogero, which rises to the east, bare and rocky. Under the cliffs that crown its summit, are deep caverns, much resorted to by sick people in summer. The air on the first entrance is almost suffocating and hot as an oven, but becomes more tolerable by degrees, as a profuse perspiration is excited. Above is a hermitage dedicated to the Greek saint Calogero, which in reality is a generical term, and answers to the modern Greek word *Caloyer*, a wandering friar; all the good effects of these vapour stoves are piously attributed to his intercession, and, if any mischief happens, it is laid at the door of the devil and his imps, who are supposed to have kept possession of some part of these dark and burning abodes.

January 1, 1778. The weather had been for some days very rainy, but now it cleared up, and enabled me to pursue my journey, which the hospitality of Sciacca had almost made me lose sight of. I took my leave with regret of persons whose hearty welcome was enhanced by an easy politeness I little expected to meet with in a place so far removed from courts and the fashionable world.

* Ortiburtino.—St. Peter's church at Rome is built with the same kind of stone.

I travelled between the sea and mount San Calogero, over a hilly open track, through deep and dirty roads to the banks of the river Verdura*. Here my guide stopped short, and pronounced the waters impassible, but, as I was well accustomed to wild countries and the fords of mountain torrents, I drove my mule into the stream, and reached the opposite shore without accident. I have always found Italian conductors timorous upon such occasions. It is usual for men to wade on each side of a horseman to prevent his being carried away by the stream; but wherever I have been so escorted, the river has been far from dangerously deep or rapid, or I am confident my guides would not have ventured. Their only use is to point out the best places for crossing.

Rice is cultivated on the banks of this river, but the higher lands are quite waste. On the summit of a very lofty mountain, which overlooks the whole course of the river, stands the town of Calatabellota, the worst situated place for any of the comforts of life I ever beheld. The position is so elevated, that I could scarce believe it inhabited; the difficulty of access and communication with the rest of the world have given a very bad name to its inhabitants, whom my friends at Sciacca represented to me as a most lawless tribe. It has succeeded to Triocala, a

* Anciently Isburus.

strong and famous city, of which the ruins are still in being about a mile below. I was foolish enough to give way to the apprehensions my companions had conceived of the Calatobellotan banditti, and to abandon the intention I had of visiting those ruins, where great quantities of medals are annually dug up*.

Here Trypho and Athenio, two runaways, established the head quarters of the republic of slaves, whom they had rescued from bondage in the 649th year of Rome. By the singular strength of the situation they were able to carry on a war for four years, and to defend themselves with success against their masters, who in vain invested the fortress. The insurrection became so weighty a concern, that it was found worthy of a consular army, and accordingly Aquilius undertook the war, which he happily ended by the destruction of the whole body of insurgents.

Triocala was the first place of any consequence that fell into the hands of the Arabian invaders, and one of the last they yielded to the Norman victors. Under its walls they received a bloody defeat from earl Roger, by which their power was irretrievably broken, and their necks bowed beneath his yoke. During their struggles, they brought hither, as to a safe repository, their accumulated

* Numus Triocalensis.

Ex Argento.

Vir nudus bovem dimidium cornibus tenens—Dimidium equi TRIA-
KAAA.

riches,

riches, and the plunder of the whole island; the great treasures found here at various times are proofs how much they had hoarded and buried. I look upon them as the founders of Calabellota, which they deemed a more impregnable situation than the old city; it has frequently been a place of refuge for the weaker party in the civil wars of Sicily, and is accused at this day of sheltering many proscribed villains. Sybilla, the widow of king Tancred, fled hither with her unfortunate family, and might here have bid defiance to the force of Henry of Swabia, if she had not been deceived into a capitulation by the perfidious emperor, who violated every article of it.

S E C T I O N XXXVII.

AFTER riding ten miles, I ascended by a hill covered with vines to Ribera, a large village or burgh of three thousand eight hundred souls, regularly but meanly built. The habitations of the richer inhabitants are raised one story high, but the dwellings of the poorer sort have nothing above the ground floor; a mode of building which is adopted to prevent the fatal effects of earthquakes. This place was settled in the year 1633, by Aloysius Moncada, prince of Paterno, who gave it the family name of his consort, daughter to the duke of Alcala.

I was

I was received at the house of an old baroness, a widow, who, with her son, and daughter-in-law, paid the utmost attention to the letter I brought from their friends at Sciacca. The room we supped in was an ordinary bed-chamber, but the entertainment was plentiful and good; ceremony predominated at first to a troublesome degree; none of the company would taste a morsel unless I helped both them and myself, a fashion I was not aware of; I take it to be founded upon an idea of having given every thing to the guest, and then receiving at his hands what he can spare. As soon as I discovered the reason of their abstinence, I endeavoured to atone for my ignorance by serving each person with alertness and profusion; the ladies accepted whatever was offered, but having made their evening meal before my arrival, left it on their plates untouched. In a short time we became more sociable, and conversation began to run on familiarly. In their rough way and odd dialect, they made me many protestations of a sincere welcome, and of satisfaction at my visiting their town, answered all my questions with great frankness and good sense, and entertained me with many curious anecdotes relative to the famous outlaws that a few years ago infested this part of Sicily. The chief of them was Testagrossa of Butera, who with twenty-four associates, laid all the country under contribution; they were a set of bloody miscreants, and perpetrated horrid barbarities on the wretches that had incurred their displeasure and fell into
2 their

their hands. The prince of Butera, whose head they had devoted to destruction, took such effectual measures, that all the gang were in their turn caught, and put to death with the most excruciating tortures that could be devised.

It required a very fatiguing stretch of attention to follow the thread of these narratives. When the young gentleman spoke I made out his meaning with ease; but the women went on with so much more eagerness and rapidity, and their language and pronunciation were so much coarser, that I was often quite bewildered.

This dialect is considerably perverted from the Tuscan idiom, but not near so much as the vulgar Neapolitan.

The oldest language spoken in this island, of which any remains are left, was the Phœnician, which exists on numberless coins of all metals, and in some inscriptions; we have no monuments, or even notion of the tongue used by the Siculi, or other early possessors of Sicily. Greek was introduced by two sets of colonies; in one the Doric dialect prevailed; the other spoke the Attic; this is clearly demonstrated by the prince of Torremuza, from authentic documents, in opposition to many learned antiquaries, who have asserted the Doric only was in use throughout all the settlements.

The Grecian language was spoken without mixture till Augustus sent eight bodies of Roman citizens to form colonies in various parts of Sicily; these new comers gradually brought Latin, the language of the ruling nation, into common

common use and corrupted the Greek. It is, however, probable, that the new tongue had not time to acquire an absolute dominion, before the connection between Sicily and Greece was renewed by means of the seat of empire being removed to Constantinople.

The irruption and sojourn of the Goths did not exceed sixty-one years, and, therefore, cannot be supposed to have operated very effectually upon the manners or language of the Sicilians. The Saracenic government made more impression, for in a reign of two hundred years it new named many towns, introduced Arabic into histories, coins and inscriptions, and contributed greatly to the banishment of the Greek idiom; though its Christian subjects may be presumed to have retained the language of their forefathers, they certainly abandoned it very speedily after the arrival of the Normans; since that epocha a variety of masters have introduced a variety of languages. The Norman dialect blended with Roman, German, Italian, Spanish, and some remnants of the old tongue, have imperceptibly coalesced in composing the present jargon. Many poems in this national dialect have been printed, but their style, turn, and pronunciation have been rendered softer, and more polished than the common conversation of the natives.—I have not met with any good prose compositions in this dialect, nor do I know that any exist; this dearth of excellent productions arises from the little attention paid to

the improvement of the language spoken by the Sicilians, who certainly had at one period of time a reasonable prospect of dictating to all Italy in matters of learning and eloquence : For it was in their island that Frederick of Swabia, and his son Manfred, both men of genius and encouragers of science, courted the muses, and to their vernacular idiom it was that they entrusted the expression of their thoughts ; this example and protection ought to have remained for ever as a stimulus in the minds of the Sicilians to excite them to cultivate and polish their native tongue ; but no efforts were made, no fortune attended it, though Dante makes the appellation of *Siciliana favella* synonymous to modern poetic language. Scarce a poet of modern genius is to be discovered among the versifiers that have rhymed their native dialect ; grave Sicilian authors, diffident of their ability to write with elegance in the Tuscan language, which they disliked as foreign, and conscious of the insufficiency of Sicilian, conveyed their information through the channel of Latin. This affront was offered to the dialect of Sicily, at a time when the Florentines were busied in perfecting the Tuscan idiom, and rendering it worthy of the pens of those great wits that have conferred upon it so brilliant and extensive a reputation. They employed with success these happy materials, which presented innumerable resources, were equal to the expression of the noblest sentiments, and the painting of the most beautiful imagery ; and displayed variety and abundance

2

combined

combined with solidity, elegance and harmony. Such is the soft yet nervous language on which Dante, Boccaccio, Ariosto, Tasso, and a crowd of eminent men have conferred immortality ; while the Sicilian method of speaking Italian, though, perhaps, formed before the Tuscan, remains to this day neglected and disesteemed.

To return to my company, we spent several hours in amusing converse, till the time of retiring was announced by a servant ; I was then struck with amazement on being conducted to a magnificent apartment, more conveniently and richly furnished than any room I had yet seen in Sicily. The floor was laid with glazed tiles painted with the arms of the family ; the bed-posts were gilt, the furniture fine damask, the windows of large Venice glass, the walls stuccoed, and coloured in distemper, and hung with mirrors. The servants had been regaled with such liberality, that they spent half the night in extolling the hospitality of our good hosts.

SECTION XXXVIII.

NEXT morning as soon as the clouds were dispersed, for it had rained heavily all night, I set out and travelled about an hour through a hilly country abounding with numberless plants, which in other countries are reared in gardens for medicinal uses. We descended into a spa-

cious plain open to the sea, and shut up on the north side by a broken theatre of mountains. In the bosom of it stands La Catholica,* the chief town of the district. From the road it appeared considerable; the heights are covered with fruit trees, of which the almond was already in full blow.

The whole plain is naked; through the middle of it flows the river Platani† in a deep channel, which the waters have worn in a stratum of rich soil many yards thick, without the least mixture of stone.

Our embarrassment was great upon finding the river much swollen with the rains, muddy, and declared impassible by a knot of muleteers, who were assembled on the banks in deep consultation. As a very short time was requisite to return to Ribera if the passage should prove impracticable, and I was desirous of giving the hospitable baroness no more trouble than was absolutely indispensable, I determined to accomplish a passage if possible. A man waded into various parts of the water, but soon found by a pole,

* La Catholica was founded in 1612 out of several small hamlets, by Francis Isfar, lord of the soil. It is now possessed by the family of Bonanni, who take the title of princes of La Catholica. The number of its inhabitants exceeds seven thousand.

† Anciently Halycus, remarkable for being the boundary appointed between the Carthaginian and Grecian territories. Near its mouth was situated the city of Heraclea Minoa, finally destroyed by the Saracens. The plough has long passed over every part of it, but frequently yet turns up coins and other antiquities belonging to it.

that neither man nor horse could pass without swimming. The rain that had fallen and still continued to fall in the mountains, at the head of the Platani, threatened a long continuance of inundation, and the whole company stood wistfully looking at each other, without any hopes of accomplishing their purpose.

In the midst of our dilemma there came up a young man, proprietor of a shad fishery on the river; he hailed his fishermen, who dwelt in huts on the opposite bank, and ordered them to convey me and my baggage across the water. They effected it in the following singular manner.*

In order to fix the nets that intercept the fish as they go up to spawn, five or six small islands have been made in a line across the stream by means of stakes wattled together, and of fods well beaten down; willows and tamarisks have taken root, and secure the islands from the violence of floods; across the channels that separate these patches of land, through which the torrent rushes with

* A Polish gentleman, author of Letters on Sicily and Malta, to whom I lent my collection of drawings, caused a view of this passage to be engraved unknown to me, and inserted it in his book. But as he never was upon the spot, he has injudiciously given the extraordinary method in which I was conveyed over the river for the usual manner of passing it at all times. I should not take notice of this circumstance, had he not thought proper to put my name to the print, which may have induced his readers to think that I was connected with him, or concerned in the compilation of his work.

vaſt impetuofity, the fiſhermen laid long dried ſtalks of aloe, the only poles they uſe in their buſineſs. Upon theſe trembling poles they rolled our baggage, and we ourſelves crept on all fours. As the ſticks were not in number ſufficient to allow of bridges being laid at the ſame time over every channel, the ſucceſſive removals of the materials with which they were formed rendered our operations extremely tedious, and the greateſt part of the day ſlipped away in accompliſhing a general tranſit: By means of a rope carried acroſs, and tied to the horſes and mules, they were drawn into the water, and forced to ſwim over. While I was taking ſome reſreſhment in the hovel, I was ſurpriſed with a ſudden report like that of a cannon, occaſioned by the river's having undermined a large piece of the loamy cliff, which being divided from the reſt of the field by its own weight, fell headlong into the water with a very loud noiſe; this accident happened repeatedly before we left the place, and is the conſequence of every flood. The fiſhery is abundant in ſhad fiſh, which come up at this ſeaſon in great numbers, and are eſteemed very delicate eating; the rent of the fiſhery is two hundred and fifty ounces a year.

Having at length overcome all difficulties, I took leave of the honeſt fellows that had been ſo ſerviceable, but it was with great difficulty I could obtain the maſter's permiſſion to requite them for their trouble.

After

After leaving the plain, where the corn and grass were in equal forwardness, we came to very hilly ground, deep clay, and narrow rugged paths; the rocks gypsum. We passed near Montalegre, * a fief of the duke of Angio, on an eminence surrounded by very pretty gardens. Here night overtook us, and made the remainder of the journey disagreeable and dangerous. The ways were perfect sloughs, and the declivities slippery and perilous for horses, while it was next to impossible to advance on foot. After descending in darkness to the sea-shore, we were obliged to ride up the bed of a torrent under lofty rocks, and then to climb a winding path to Siculiana, a town of five thousand souls, belonging to the prince of La Catholica, to whom it yields annually an income of fourteen thousand crowns. † His steward lodged me in a warm apartment in the old baronial castle, and provided every thing requisite for the relief of weary travellers. Siculiana is remarkable for not having a single convent within its precincts, owing either to the dangers of a visit from the Mahometans, or to the recent foundation of the town. The want of friars and nuns must not be ascribed to any

* This place was settled in the last century by a concourse of people, who found themselves exposed to the attacks of the Algerines while they lived in straggling dwellings in the open country. As these settlers were vassals, the town was of course feudal, and in 1633 was erected into a duchy for John de Joen, in whose posterity it still remains. I could not learn why it is called Angio or Anjou.

† Siculiana was rebuilt by Frederick of Chiaramonte.

deficiency

deficiency of zeal in the inhabitants, or any improvements in philosophy; for on the wall of my apartment I found pasted up a thesis to be maintained in the schools of Girgenti by a native of Siculiana. He therein undertakes to prove, “that the Copernican system is impious, absurd, “and contradictory to holy writ; from which it is evident, that the earth stands still, and the sun moves round “it, like the sails of a windmill round the pivot.”

Siculiana is pleasantly situated on two hills joined together by a long street; the vale below full of orange and other fruit trees, and the view of the sea very extensive.

We had next day some bad road through strong clays in the bottoms, and over chalky rocks on the hills. The grounds are well cultivated, but the summits are bare, and composed of shining stone, which the neighbours burn into lime. This difficulty in our progress ended at the shore which we rode along to the new port of Girgenti. The beach is strewn with small bits of polished marble, but I could not discern any vestiges of ancient edifices near it, or guess whence they can have come, except they have been washed down by the torrents, and thrown back by the waves. Nature has done little towards the formation of a port here, and to the recent assistance of art alone is Girgenti indebted for this essential convenience. The harbour is formed by means of a pier carried out in three sides of an octagon, with a battery at the head; the light-house is be erected on the cliffs on shore,

Shore, as there is no possibility of raising it high enough on the mole without danger of sinking. The work is admirable as to strength and neatness, but the intention of creating a safe and compleat haven has not been fully answered; the Scirocco commands it entirely, and drives in great quantities of sand, which I fear will in time choak up the port; even now ships of burden find it difficult to get in, but the Caricatore is considerable, and the magazines in the rocks along the shore very spacious.

G I R G E N T I.

S E C T I O N XXXIX.

IT is four miles from the port to the city of Girgenti, which stands upon one of the highest hills on the coast; the houses cover its summit and sides compleatly, and seem like terraces, with the cathedral and castle above all. The road thither is good, though hilly, and the vale delightfully planted with olive-trees in corn fields; among the distant groves towards the east the ruins of Agrigentum rise above the trees. The stone of which the lower strata of these hills are composed is a concretion of marine exuvia of a reddish yellow tinge, exactly similar to the colour of volcanic tufo when wet.

I was lodged at the convent of the Scuolepie, which being situated in one of the most elevated parts of Girgenti, afforded me from my windows a prospect of the whole country towards the sea; the ruins of the old city appear

appear distinctly amidst green fields; the course of the torrents that flowed before its walls may be traced through all their meanders; the remains of ancient encampments on the heights, the port, and the coast for many leagues all lie within the compass of one view. No pencil can do justice to the beauties of the intermediate vale, hemmed in by gentle eminences on three sides, and richly set with evergreens, and almond-trees powdered with blossoms.

The first person introduced to me was the Cicerone of the place, a poor schoolmaster; with moderate skill in drawing, great attention, and exactness, he has delineated all the ruins. I compared several of his draughts, and verified his measurements, and had reason to be satisfied with his care and truth.

Before I proceed to an account of the present state either of old or new Girgenti, it will be proper to sketch out a compendium of their origin and history. Ancient authors inform us that Dedalus, the most famous mechanician of fabulous antiquity, fled to this spot for protection against Minos, and built many wonderful edifices for Coccalus king of the island. Long after his flight the people of Gela sent a colony hither six hundred years before the birth of Christ; and from the name of a neighbouring stream called the new city Acragas, whence the Romans formed their word Agrigentum. These Greeks converted the ancient abode of the Siculi into a citadel to

guard the magnificent city, which they erected on the hillocks below.

An advantageous situation, a free government with all its happy effects, and a very active commercial spirit, exalted their commonwealth to a degree of riches and power unknown to the other Greek settlements, Syracuse alone excepted.* But if we may trust chronologists with respect

to

* Numi Agrigentorum.

Ex Argento.

1. Pagurus AKPAΓANTOΣ—Aquila piscem discerpens AKPAΓAN—
2. Pagurus—Aquila leporem discerpens.
3. Pagurus—Aquila super colubrum stans.
4. In quadr. caput muliebre AKPA—Jupiter sedens d. Aquil. s bac. tenens.
6. Duo Aquilæ leporem disc. AKPAΓANTI—Figura in quadrigâ superpervolitante victoriâ coronat. sub. pagurus.

Ex Ære.

1. Aquila piscem ten. AKPAΓANTINON alis expansis—Pagurus Polyplus et concha.
2. Aquila pisc. ten. alis clausis AKPA—Pagurus
3. Aquila serpent. devor.—Pagurus. vermis
4. Cap. Apollinis—duæ Aquilæ lepor. discerp.
5. Cap. imb. ferto redim.—Pagurus.
6. Aquila lepor. disc.—Pagurus.
7. Aquila lacertam devor.—Pagurus. 2 glob. delphin.
8. Aquila avem devor.—Pagurus. 2 glob. 2 pisces.
9. Cap. imb. pileat.—Pagurus.
10. Cap. Apollin. AK—Aquila AKPAΓANTI.
11. Aquila. lep. dev.—3 glob.
12. Cap. Jovis—Aquila fulm. infist. AKPAΓANTINON.
13. Cap. Cereris AK—Mulier stol. stans AKPAΓANTINON.

14. Cap.

to the periods they have fixed for the particular events of those remote ages, the felicity of Agrigentum was but of short duration, and tyranny soon destroyed its liberties.

Phalaris was the first that reduced it to slavery. His name is familiar to most readers on account of his cruelty, and the brazen bull in which he tortured his enemies. The letters supposed to be written by him were the subject of a long discussion among the learned some years ago, while one party maintained their authenticity, the other proved them to be spurious. Phalaris met with the common fate of tyrants, and after his death the Agrigentines enjoyed their liberty for one hundred and fifty years; at the expiration of which term Thero usurped the sovereign authority. The moderation, justice, and valor of this prince preserved him from opposition while living,

14. Cap. Apoll. AK—Aquila.

15. Cap. Cereris M—Vir nudus pat. ten. AKPATANTINON.

16. Cap. imb.—mulier stans s. hast. tenens.

17. Cap. mulieb.—Tripus.

18. Cap. Palladis galeat. cum leone in galeâ—Victoria alat. et stolat. stans. d. ramum s. bacul. ten. pagurus NIKA.

19. Cap. Herculis barb. AKPATANTI—Aquila serpent. dev.

20. Cap. Jovis AKPATANTI—Aquila lep. dev. IΦ

21. Cap. Cereris cum caracht. ignotis—Vir barb. stans togat.

22. Aquila AKPA—Pagurus. AI.

23. Triquetra—In laurea AGRIGENT.

24. Aquila AKPATANTOS.

25. Cap. viril. diadem. imbarb. cornutum AKPADAS—Aquila colum-
næ infid. capite conv. 6 glob. pagurus.

and

and have rescued his memory from the obloquy of posterity; he joined his son-in-law Gelo, king of Syracuse, in a war against the Carthaginians; in the course of which victory attended all his steps, and Sicily saw herself for a time delivered from her African oppressions. The memory of Thero's virtues could not preserve the sceptre in his family; very soon after his decease, his son Thrasycleus was despoiled of the diadem, and Agrigentum restored to her old democratical government. Ducetius next disturbed the general tranquillity; he was a chief of the mountaineers descendants of the Siculi, and was an overmatch for the Agrigentines while they were unsupported by alliances, but sank under the weight of their union with the Syracusans. Some trifling altercations dissolved this union, and produced a war in which the Agrigentines were worsted, and compelled to submit to humiliating terms of peace. Resentment led them to embrace with joy the proposals of the Athenians, then meditating an attack upon Syracuse. Their new friends soon made them feel that the sacrifice of liberty and fortune would be the price of their protection, and this consideration brought them speedily back to their old connections. But as if it had been decreed that all friendship should be fatal to their repose, the reconciliation and its effects, drew upon them the anger of the Carthaginians: By this enemy their armies were routed, their city taken, and their race almost extirpated; scarce a vestige of magnificence was left, and

Agrigentum lay fifty years buried under its own ruins, till Timoleon, after triumphing over the Carthaginians, and restoring liberty to Sicily, collected the descendants of the Agrigentines, and sent them to re-establish the dwellings of their forefathers. Their exertions were rewarded with astonishing success; for Agrigentum rose from its ashes with such a renewal of vigour, that in a very short time we find it engaged in the bold scheme of seizing a lucky moment, when Agathocles and Carthage had reduced Syracuse to the lowest ebb; and arrogating to itself supremacy over all the Sicilian republics. Xenodocus was appointed the leader of this arduous enterprize, and had his latter operations been as fortunate as his first campaign, Agrigentum would have acquired such a preponderance of reputation and power, that the rival states would not even have dared to attack it. But a few brilliant exploits were succeeded by a severe overthrow; the Agrigentines lost courage, disagreed in council, and humbly sued for peace to Agathocles. This commonwealth afterwards took a strong part with Pyrrhus, and when he left Sicily to the mercy of her enemies, threw itself into the arms of Carthage. During the first Punic war Agrigentum was the head quarters of the Carthaginians, and was besieged by the Roman consuls, who after eight months blockade, took it by storm. It nevertheless changed masters several times during the contest between those rival states, and in every instance suffered most cruel outrages. After this period
very

very little mention of it occurs in history, nor do we know the precise time of the destruction of the old city, and the building of the new one.

My antiquary began his round with the cathedral, a clumsy building patched up by barbarous architects with various discordant parts; the Norman style is injudiciously blended with modern imitations of the Grecian orders. The roof is of wood and almost flat, intersected by two stone arches; my conductor placed me at the bottom of the nave, and went himself along the cornice to a post behind the great altar; his lowest whisper reached me, and was heard with the utmost distinctness, notwithstanding the line of communication was broken by the isles, and a multitude of projecting pieces of ornamental architecture. This church is enriched with no works of modern painters or sculptors that claim any title to praise, but the baptismal font is made out of an ancient sarcophagus faced with very beautiful basso relievos. The principal front exhibits several men with horses and hounds preparing for the chase, and a little aged female holding the principal figure, as if she wished to keep him at home. The slab that forms the back of the coffin is roughly chiseled, and represents the hunting of a wild boar, which keeps at bay a few dogs and five huntsmen. On one end of the monument a hero is drawn as thrown from a chariot, the horses in great confusion and dismay rearing up, while a servant struggles to hold them in. On the opposite extremity

temity is a matron sitting in a melancholy posture, surrounded by her maids, who endeavour to soothe her grief by the sound of various instruments. A little Cupid behind her chair has his bow bent, and seems to be drawing a shaft silently out of his quiver.

Antiquaries differ in their explanations of these sculptures, but all agree in allowing them a considerable share of elegance, spirit and correctness of design.

The late bishop of this see, a nobleman of the house of Lucchesi, lies buried under a mass of marble as imperfect in taste and drawing as it is in execution; the prelate deserved a better monument, for he possessed great virtues, and left behind him an excellent character both as a bishop and as an encourager of science; he added a spacious hall to his palace, and placed in it a large assortment of books for the use of the public; he also bequeathed a cabinet of medals and antiquities as the beginning of a Museum, and an incitement to learning and good taste. Time will shew whether his laudable endeavours, and the advantages he procured his flock in that line, have had all the effect he wished in propagating knowledge in his diocese; it is the richest in Sicily, but has the character of being less enlightened and polished than the rest of the island.

Among the curiosities belonging to the cathedral is an Etruscan vase of rare size and preservation. There are also some golden pateras of extreme rarity, similar to one pur-

chased at Girgenti by Sir William Hamilton, and by him deposited in the British Museum.

From the cathedral, a canon, to whom I had brought letters, carried me in his coach to see the town, and take the air in the only street where horses can draw a carriage with any degree of ease or safety. This city, inhabited by fifteen thousand persons, has no remarkable buildings or works of art that deserve mention; the only antiquities I saw were a Latin inscription of the time of the Antonines, as is pretended, relative to some association between Agrigentum and Lilybæum; and a piece of ancient masonry in the foundations of a church which my guide called the remains of a temple of Jupiter.

S E C T I O N XL.

I DEVOTED the following day to a regular survey of the ancient city of Agrigentum, the principal part of which lay in the vale; the present town of Girgenti occupies the mountain on which the citadel of Cocalus stood.

It was difficult to be more judicious and fortunate than the Agrigentines in the choice of a situation for a large city; they were here provided with every requisite for defence, pleasure and comfort of life; a natural wall, formed by abrupt rocks, presented a strong barrier against assailants; pleasant hills sheltered them on three sides without

out impeding the circulation of air ; before them a broad plain watered by the Acragas, an agreeable stream from which the city took its name, gave admittance to the sea breeze, and to a noble prospect of that awful element ; the port or emporium lay in view at the mouth of the river, and probably the road across the flat was lined with gay and populous suburbs.

The hospitality and parade for which the Agrigentines are celebrated in history were supported by a brisk and extensive commerce, that also gave an air of life and opulence to all the environs. So strong is this support to a commonwealth, that Agrigentum was able to resist many shocks of adversity, and always rise again with fresh splendour after the most outrageous storms ; it was, however, crushed by the general fall of Grecian liberty ; the feeble remnants of its population, which had survived so many calamities, were at length driven out of its walls by the Saracens, and obliged to lock themselves up for safety among the bleak and inaccessible rocks of the present city.

The day was as favourable for my purpose as could be wished, clear and warm ; every object glowed with the brightness of the sun-beams, and all nature seemed to resume new life on the approach of spring : the tints in the landscape were strong, and yet imbrowned with the shades of winter ; but the quantity of evergreens, and the patches of young corn gave sufficient variety to the picture ; every gratification I enjoyed in examining the noble vestiges of

old magnificence was enhanced by the sweet temperature of the atmosphere.

We began our rounds at the north-east angle, with some foundations of large regular stones, upon which a church has been erected; a road appears hewn in the solid rock for the convenience of the votaries that visited this temple in ancient days; it was then dedicated to Ceres and her daughter Proserpine, the peculiar patronesses of Sicily. Bishop Blaife has succeeded to their honors.

From hence we continued our walk to the south-east corner, where the ground, rising gradually, ends in a bold eminence, which is crowned with majestic columns, the ruins of a temple said to have been consecrated to Juno: It was raised upon a lofty base of regular stone work, in the heart of which was contrived a gallery either for apartments or store-houses. On the west front only, (for as the temple was placed on the brow of a hill, the elevation of the ground rendered it unnecessary on the eastern aspect,) a grand flight of steps leads up to the pronaos or vestibule. The fronts consisted of six fluted Doric columns, the flanks of eleven plain ones; of these few are now standing, many having been thrown down by earthquakes within the memory of man; what remains is in a tottering condition, and threatens soon to be prostrate with the rest. Their situation on a gently swelling eminence, rising out of a wood of fruit trees, its sides dotted with single trees, presents

presents a most delightful subject for the pencil of a landscape-painter.

Here we altered our direction, and moved from this temple, which stood at the south-east angle of the city walls along the brow of the hill towards the west. We soon reached the building commonly called the temple of Concord.*

The stone of this and the other buildings is the same as that of the neighbouring mountains and cliffs, a conglutination of sea-sand and shells, full of perforations, of a hard and durable texture, and a deep reddish brown colour. This Doric temple has all its columns, entablature, pediments and walls entire; only part of the roof is wanting: It owes its preservation to the piety of some Christians, who have covered half the nave, and converted it into a church consecrated under the invocation of Saint

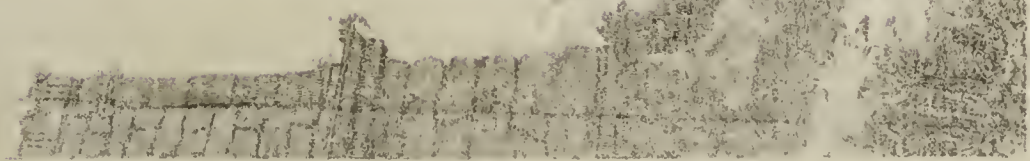
* The reason given for supposing it was sacred to Concord is, that Faz-zello, and subsequent writers, have ascribed to this building the inscription now fixed in a wall at Girgenti. It runs thus: "Concordiæ Agrigentinarum. sacrum Respublica Lilybitanorum dedicantibus M. Atterio Candido Pro-cos. et L. Cornelio Marcello D. Pr. Pr." and, as D'Orville very justly concludes from many unanswerable arguments, is supposititious. Upon this slight foundation, and an expression in Strabo, who says, that all the public edifices of Agrigentum had been burnt or destroyed before the time of Augustus, Faz-zello has formed his opinion that this temple was built after that period, and at the joint expence of the two cities mentioned in the inscription. If it was, it must be deemed impossible to ascertain the age of a building by the style of its architecture; for the ruins of Agrigentum seem to belong to an earlier period.

Gregory, bishop of Girgenti. Six columns in front, and eleven on the sides, without the angular ones, form the colonnade. The cella has a door at each end between two columns and two pilasters, and in each side wall six small doors, and a stair case that led up to the rooms in the roof. The pediments are much flatter than those used by the moderns, not being elevated above twenty-two degrees. The entablement is very large in its proportions; the columns taper regularly without any swelling, from a diameter of four feet three inches to one of three feet five inches. *

This majestic edifice stands in the most striking point of view imaginable, on the brink of a precipice, which formed the defence of the city along the whole southern exposure; from every part of the country the temple of Concord appears the most conspicuous figure of a beautiful picture.

* Measures.

	ft.	in.	lines.
Pediment, height of the die	9	9	6
Cornice	2	6	6
Entablement, height of cornice	2	6	6
Projection of ditto	3	0	0
Height of frize	3	5	0
Breadth of tryglyph	1	5	0
Height of architrave	3	10	3
Thickness of abacus	0	10	3
Ditto of the ovolo	1	8	6
Ditto of the annulet	0	5	1





H. W. del.

J. Taylor sculp.

Temple of Hercules.

View of the ruins of Augustum from the Tomb of Thero.

Sepulchres cut in the rock detached by age or accident from the Mountain.

Tomb of Thero.

Temple of Concord.

Temple of Juno.

S E C T I O N XLI.

FROM hence we proceeded in the same direction between rows of sepulchres cut in the rock wherever it admitted of being excavated by the hand of man, or was so already by that of nature; some masses of it are hewn into the shape of coffins, others drilled full of small square holes employed in a different mode of interment, and serving as receptacles of urns. One ponderous piece of the rock lies in an extraordinary position: by the failure of its foundation, or the shock of an earthquake, it has been loosened from the general quarry, and rolled down the declivity where it now remains supine with the cavities turned upwards.

Our next station was at a single column that marks the confused heap of moss-grown ruins belonging to the temple of Hercules. It stood on a projecting rock above a chasm in the ridge, which was cut through for a passage to the emporium.

We followed this road over some hills to the building usually called the tomb of Thero. It is surrounded by aged olive trees, which cast a wild irregular shade over the ruin. The situation is solitary, the rocks appear under the temple of Concord in the back ground, and the clusters of beautiful trees form a variety of masses along the banks to which

which the magic touches of a Salvator could alone do justice.

This edifice rather inclines to the pyramidical shape, and consists at present of a triple plinth, and a base supporting a square pedestal; upon this plain solid foundation is raised a second order having a window in each front, and two Ionic pilasters at each angle; they are crowned with an entablature of the Doric order, of which the triglyphs and metopes remain, but the cornice is fallen; it is consequently impossible to divine how the building was terminated at the summit. Notwithstanding this confusion of ornaments and proportions, the monument has great elegance in its form and style. Its inside is divided into a vault, a ground room and one in the Ionic story, communicating with each other by means of a small internal staircase.*

From hence I wandered down into the plain to inspect the fragments of the temple of Esculapius; part of two columns and two pilasters with an intermediate wall sup-

* Measures of Thero's Tomb.

	ft.	in.
Diameter of the lower story	13	0
Height of ditto ———	17	3
Diameter of the upper story	9	1
Height of ditto ———	12	3
Diameter of columns at top	1	1
————— at bottom	1	6

port

port the end of a farm house, and were, I suppose, the front of the cella.

From the plain I returned to Agrigentum by the same road, and pursuing the track of the walls towards the west, arrived at a spot which is covered with the gigantic remains of the temple of Jupiter the Olympian, minutely described by Diodorus Siculus. It may literally be said that it has not one stone left upon another, and it is barely possible, with the help of much conjecture, to discover the traces of its plan and dimensions. Diodorus calls it the largest temple in the whole island, but adds that the calamities of war caused the work to be abandoned before the roof could be put on; and that the Agrigentines were ever after reduced to such a state of poverty and dependence, that they never had it in their power to finish this superb monument of the taste and opulence of their ancestors. The length of this temple was three hundred and seventy Greek feet, its breadth sixty, and its height two hundred and twenty, - exclusive of the foundations or basement story; the extent and solidity of its vaults and underworks were wonderful; its spacious porticos and exquisite sculpture were suited to the grandeur of the whole. It was not built in the usual style of Sicilian temples with a cella of massive walls and a perystle, but was designed in a mixt taste with half columns let into the walls on the outside, the inside exhibiting a plain surface.

This account of Diodorus cannot be perfectly ascertained either as to length or breadth, and the height can only be guessed at by calculating the diameter of the semi-columns, and their proportions; we may thus form a plan by analogy and comparison with other temples still existing in the island entire in all or most of their parts; but as this edifice, erected in honour of the supreme deity of paganism, differed essentially in its design from the rest, the difficulties of speaking with precision on the subject are doubled; I suppose that when the Sicilian author mentions height, he reckons from the pavement to the point of the pediment; this brings it pretty near his measurement, which otherwise seems absurd or ill copied.

Still I suspect he does not allow sufficient breadth. The half columns measure ten feet in diameter, and if we follow the usual proportion of columns in Sicily, must have been only fifty feet high; they have ten sharp flutings, each of which was wide enough to allow me to stand at my ease in them. Their mighty fragments lie scattered on the brow and side of a gentle declivity; these and the parts of the entablature and pediment have a deep groove cut at each end in the figure of a horse-shoe, along which a rope was run in order to hoist the stone into its proper place.

The pompous description left us of this fabrick, and the colossal dimensions of its remains impressed a modern traveller with such enthusiastic ideas, that in the warmth of
his

his admiration and antiquarian zeal he treats all buildings of later date with most profound contempt; if we were to trust to his decisions on the point, we should esteem the church of Saint Peter at Rome as no better than a chapel compared with this temple, either in magnitude, taste, or decoration; but upon cooler consideration, and the compass in our hand, we shall discover that this writer, who on other occasions is a candid and dispassionate observer, has suffered himself in the present instance to be led away by his veneration for the ancients, and that the cathedral of Rome exceeds the Agrigentine temple more than doubly in every dimension; * the latter lies in so ruinous and desolate a condition, that no comparison can be made respecting the ornamental parts, or the great architectural lines that constitute true grandeur.

The next ruin belongs to the temple of Castor and Pollux; vegetation has covered the lower parts of the building, and only a few fragments of columns appear between the vines. This was the point of the hill where the wall stooped on the brink of a large fishpond spoken of by Diodorus; it was cut in the solid rock thirty feet deep, and water was conveyed to it from the hills; in it was

* According to the measures given by Mr. Lalande of the Academy of Sciences, Saint Peter's church on the outside in length, including the portico, measures 704 English feet—Its height from the pavement to the top of the cross 435—Breadth 493. It is therefore with the cupola 215 feet higher than the Greek temple, 334 longer, and 433 wider; an immense difference.

bred a great quantity of fish for the use of public entertainments; swans and various other kinds of wild fowl swam along its surface, for the amusement of the citizens, and the great depth of water prevented an enemy from surprising the town on that side. It is now dry, and used as a garden.

On the opposite bank are two tapering columns without their capitals, most happily placed in a tuft of carob trees. Monte Toro, where Hanno encamped with the Carthaginian army, before the Roman consuls drew him into an engagement that ruined his defensive plan, is a noble back-ground to this picturesque groupe of objects.

The warmth of the weather, and the fatigue I had undergone in clambering over so many heaps of ruins, caused me to obey the summons to dinner with exquisite pleasure. The canon, to whose care I was recommended, had prepared a most excellent repast at the convent of San Nicolo, belonging to the Franciscan order.

This monastery stands on a little eminence in the center of the old city, admirably situated. The range of hills towards the south-east sinks gradually, so as to admit a noble reach of sea, and of plain, terminated on each side by thick groves of fruit trees; through them I here and there discovered the winding course, and sometimes the waters of the river. Above appear the remains of ancient grandeur, wonderfully contrasted with the humble straw cottages built at their feet. As a companion to this
land-

landscape, the present city rises boldly on a pinnacle, backed by lofty mountains in different degrees of tint and shade. In the orchard of this convent is a square building with pilasters, which is supposed to have been part of the palace of the Roman prætor. The whole space comprehended within the walls of the ancient city abounds with traces of antiquity, foundations, brick arches, and little channels for the conveyance of water; but in no part are any ruins that can be presumed to have belonged to places of public entertainment. This is the more extraordinary, as the Agrigentines were a sensual people, fond of shews and dramatic performances, and the Romans never dwelt in any place long without introducing their savage games. Theatres and amphitheatres seem better calculated than most buildings to resist the outrages of time, and it is surprising that not even the vestiges of their form should remain on the ground.

FROM

FROM
G I R G E N T I
TO
S Y R A C U S E.

SECTION XLII.

I SPENT the following days in repeated visits to the ruins, while the fineness of the weather invited me abroad; at home I found my hosts civil without officiousness, and myself at full liberty to enjoy solitude, or join in company, as it suited my inclinations; the conversation of the priests was easy and sprightly, and full of information on many subjects.

On the 6th instant a great change took place in the weather; wind, lightning and rain assailed us, and my room, which formed the angle of an elevated mansion, experienced all the fury of the storm. It was a most
blustering

blustering night ; not a gust of the tempest but what was heard by me, nor did the howling of the winds, and beating of the rain permit me to close my eyes : notwithstanding the solidity of the walls, I thought it almost impossible that the house could withstand the violence of such a hurricane. At sun-rise the storm suddenly ceased, and the weather brightening up, I prepared for my journey towards the eastern parts of the island.

Accordingly, at noon I set out ; as I passed through the city gate, the musicians belonging to the corporation saluted me with a long farewell on the French horn, which they blew to the very height of its notes with more attention to noise than melody : The Sicilians are passionately fond of loud wind and instrumental music, and upon great holidays will collect before a church door forty or fifty drums all beating together ; for the greater the noise, the more honour for the saint.

Notwithstanding their good wishes, our progress was soon stopped ; for the very first brook we came to was full to the brim, and not to be forded without imminent danger ; we therefore prudently returned, and waited till the waters had run off.

Next day I resumed my journey ; we passed the rivulet before so formidable, now dwindled to a trifling stream, and also the larger river of Naro, after which we had to encounter the worst roads in Sicily ; the clay was so tenacious, and the solid bottom lay so deep, that our horses
and

and mules were scarce able to draw their legs out of the mud. The hills on each side abound in sulphur, which is dug out by means of grooves driven into the heart of them; the mineral is brought up in small green lumps, and laid in large troughs, lined with plaister. When the fire has heated them to the proper degree, the brimstone exudes through holes in the bottom into wooden bowls placed under them. As it was not the season for working, I had not an opportunity of seeing the process. After labouring nine miles in these almost bottomless roads, we unexpectedly came to a sandy soil, fine orange gardens and rocky defiles that brought us to * Palma, a small town belonging to the prince of Lampedusa, situated in a most agreeable valley not far from the sea.

I slept in the manor house, which is spacious and handsome, though unfinished, and almost unfurnished. No body came near me or offered the least service, except an old woman who lives in the offices. I was not very sorry to be thus neglected by the steward, to whom I had sent my letter, for the servants procured a good supply of excellent provisions without his assistance, and both they and

* Palma was founded in 1637, by Charles Tomasi,* who first was allowed the title of duke of this place. It had been part of the estate of Andrew di Chiaramonte, or Clermont, forfeited for rebellion against king Martin. Inhabitants 5535. Lexic. fig. Topogr.* It went afterwards to his brother, prince of Lampedusa, in whose posterity it still remains.

a French merchant that joined our company gave a most unfavourable account of the Palmese ; they assured me that a native of Palma might be found in every jail in Sicily, for in atrocious villainy and badness of character they were eminently remarkable above all the inhabitants of the island. The old woman acknowledged that part of the accusation was true, and that the brother of the governatore was just released from confinement for want of evidence of his having murdered his sister in law. These accounts took away all desire of making any acquaintances here, and reconciled me to my solitude. The house stands on a rock that towers above an extensive plain divided into corn fields by rows of almond trees in full blossom ; some smaller inclosures surround clumps of evergreen fruit trees, and vines that run from the tree forming arbours which in summer must be delicious shady retreats ; but shade and shelter are amply supplied at all seasons by the locust trees scattered over the vale ; the mother trunk is encircled by layers that strike root and shoot up to an equal height, thus from a single original plant spreading a grove over half an acre. In front of the windows rises a gentle knoll covered with a knot of tall palm trees that hang their beautiful branches over a farm house ; the sea appears between their stems. This rich vale is closed on the west side by a wood of fruit trees that cover the hills, at the foot of which a limpid stream winds its way to the sea—Behind all rises a mountain, planted to the summit

with olive trees. The view to the east is confined by a high country cultivated to the very top.

In my whole tour I never met with a spot that possessed so many points of rural elegance as this vale of Palma ; it seemed to me the image of what the whole southern coast of Sicily was, while its inhabitants had nothing to fear from their African neighbours ; while they peaceably cultivated their fertile lands, and ran no risk of a barbarous invader's reaping the fruit of their toil, and carrying off their families to slavery in foreign climes.

The face of the country along the coast has undoubtedly undergone great alterations since the states of Barbary began their depredations ; the terror they inspire has driven the natives into towns, or farther back from the sea, and, perhaps, induces them to keep the country clear of wood, that the approach of an enemy may be more easily discerned and guarded against.

A small caricatore is now the source of some prosperity to the Palmese, enabling them to dispose of the excellent products of their territory. The wine of Palma is highly prized ; indeed the whole coast affords that article in great perfection. I tasted various sorts of white wine, some low in colour, and others of a rich amber glow, resembling sherry in look and taste. The macaroni of this district is very fine, the bread extremely white and good, and wherever I came, fresh eggs, pork and fowls were to be had in great abundance.

From

From Palma I travelled some miles in a pleasant plain, part of which is planted with vines, the rest sown with corn and inclosed with rows of almond trees. I then passed over a high ledge of rocks from whence I had a view of the spacious plains which Fazzello calls the campi Geloi, supposed to have been seen by Æneas as he coasted along.* A long insulated mountain divides this level track of land from the sea shore. My guide, who knew the low grounds to be impassible at this season of the year, conducted us near the beach, and by winding over the hills picked out a road to Alicata, which is twelve miles from the last halt; whenever necessity drove us down into the plain, (for we could not always make good a passage round the rocks,) our progress was slow and fatiguing both to man and beast, for at every step we were mired and almost rivetted in the dirt.

SECTION XLIII.

ALICATA is a small town built partly upon a slope and partly on the beach at the end of a long chain of hills. It is a place of little strength, for the castle of St. Angelo on the brow of the hill is ruinous,

* Ad paret Camarina procul campique Geloi
Immanisque Gela fluvii cognomine dicta.

VIRGIL ÆN.

the town walls are much decayed, and the fortrefs on the peninsula is in want of great repairs to render it strong. It forms two small bays for the barges that carry out the corn to ships lying in the offing. Alicata has great connections with Malta in the corn trade, and Maltese speronaras are commonly to be hired here. My intention was to have embarked at Alicata, and to have visited that island, but the winds had long blown from the wrong point, and seemed fixed for a length of time in the same quarter. This difficulty, and the great agitation of the sea, obliged me to give up all thoughts of the voyage. I alighted at the house of a clergyman. The town contains ten thousand inhabitants. The patron of Alicata is Saint Angelo, a Carmelite friar murdered by the Moors in the thirteenth century; his body was exposed to the veneration of the public while I was there, in commemoration of his having preserved the town from the havock occasioned in other parts of the island by the earthquake of 1693. The populace of this place carry their respect for the sacerdotal character to a great height, for as we walked through the streets, the old women and children cast themselves on their knees before the clergyman my companion, touching his garments with a finger, and then kissing their hand with great veneration; some, more inconveniently situated than the rest, contented themselves with touching my cloaths, thinking, no doubt, that a blessing was

was like the electric fluid, and could be communicated by means of conductors.

Alicata possesses some curious Greek inscriptions relative to the ancient city of Gela; the most remarkable is a psephisma, or decree of the senate, for crowning Heraclides director of the public academy.

January 10. I left the Val di Mazzara at the ferry of the Fiume Salso, and entered the Val di Noto. This river was the Himera of the ancients; it rises in the heart of Sicily, near the source of another river formerly known by the same name of Himera, which discharges itself into the gulf of Termini. The present denomination is derived from the brackish taste of its waters, which are deep in winter, but extremely shallow in summer.

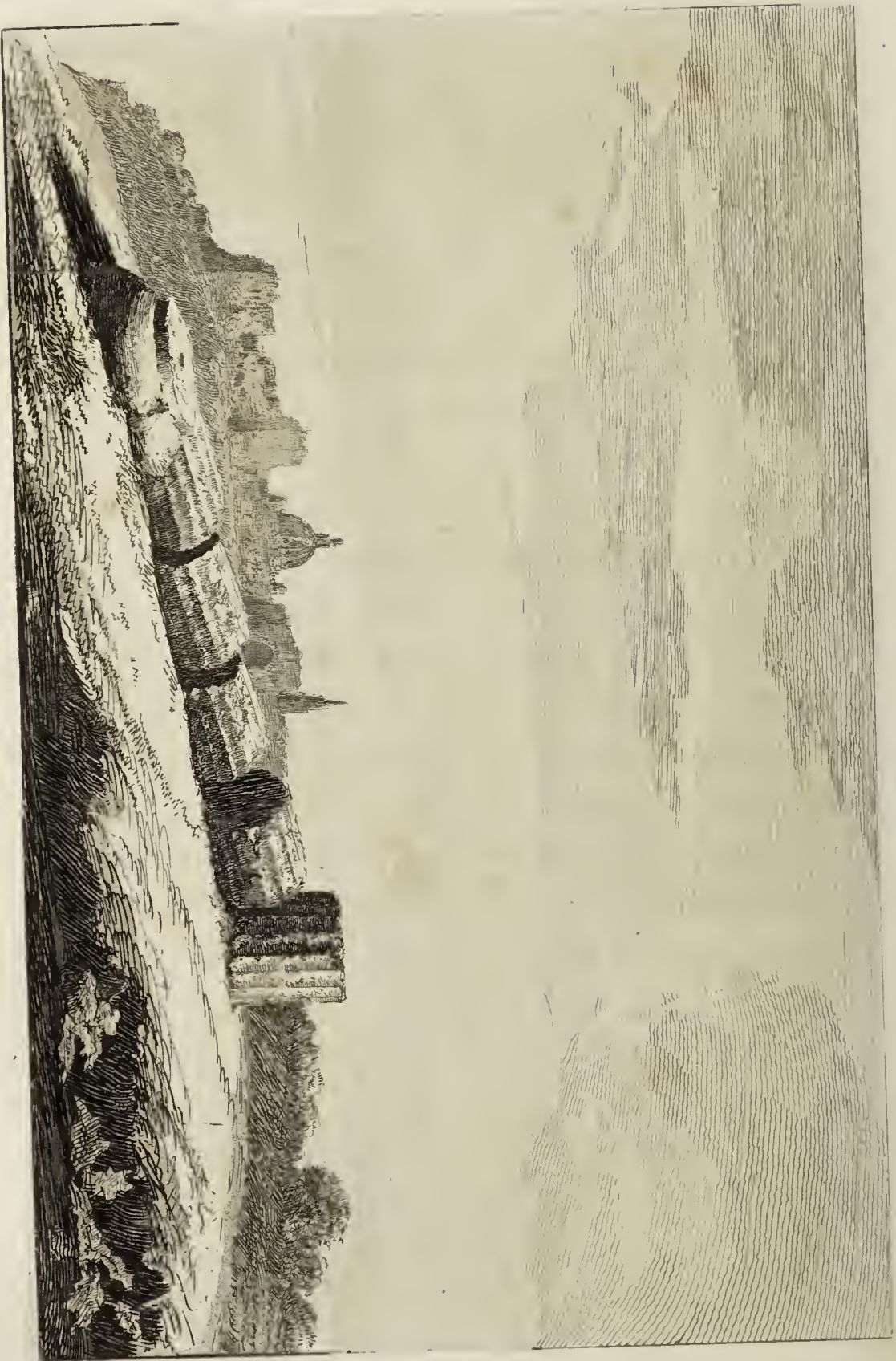
On the opposite bank I enjoyed a pleasant view of Alicata, stretching down the hill in an elegant sweep. Its castles terminate the line of houses in a bold manner, and present a miniature copy of the grand picture of Naples, when seen from the shore of Portici.

We kept near the sea for eighteen miles, following the sinuosities of the coast, and as much as possible riding upon the sands; they abound in shells, some of which would be valuable to a collector of natural curiosities; the broken cliffs that extend to the verge of the sea are composed of greenish marle, full of sulphur; some of them are solid rocks of gypsum. A great deal of kali, or saltwort, grows on these marley grounds, and a considerable quantity of
barilla

barilla is burnt in the neighbourhood. The discovery of the uses of this plant appears to be a present of the Saracens to the Europeans; for I have not been able to find any mention of it, before the Mahometan æra. The ancients, as far as I have read, are silent on that head. Pliny enters deeply into the nature of the various kinds of nitre, explains all the ingredients employed in making glass, but in the number never hints at any mixture of vegetable ashes being used. He informs us in his 31st book, that nitre was naturally formed by evaporation in several lakes, without any art, and that in other places it was made in the same manner as salt, in beds, and by regulated quantities of nitrous water let in to evaporate; after which it was laid in heaps, and there hardened to the consistence of a stone. He adds, that a ship laden with nitre having anchored off the mouth of a muddy river in Syria, called Belus, the sailors landed to dress their dinner on shore, but for want of stones to set their pot upon, fetched some lumps of their cargo from the ship for that purpose. As the fire increased it melted the salt jointly with the sands of the beach, and soon produced a new liquor, which was glass.

Before I ventured to advance this opinion, I consulted such modern writers as have written professedly on the subject. In the *Encyclopedie* I found, under the heads *Soude* and *Verre*, a contrary assertion, grounded upon a misinterpretation





COLUMN AT TERRA NOVA.

interpretation of Pliny's words *. It is there said that, according to a story in Pliny, glass was discovered by some merchants, who being *cast away* on the sands, near the mouth of the river Belus, happened to dress their victuals *with kali*, the ashes of which united in fusion with the sand. No mention whatever is made by the Latin naturalist of any plant or ashes, but only of nitre collected from water, and hardened into lumps. The compilers of that Dictionary are often guilty of similar inaccuracies, and it had been more conducive to the public utility, if they had devoted some of the hours spent in metaphysical dissertations to the revision and perfection of the essential parts of their book. A slight criticism upon this Dictionary will, I trust, be pardoned in a work that describes Palermo as a capital still existing in a populous flourishing condition, while the Encyclopedistes call it, "an ancient city destroyed, that was formerly situated on the northern coast of Sicily, and vied with Messina for the title of metropolis."

Encyclopedist.

No appearance of ruined edifices occurred during my ride to Terranova, a large burgh belonging to the duke of Monteleone. It is cheerfully situated on a bank near the sea, and has a caricatore which exports a considerable quantity of corn. The environs abound with figs and

* The text runs thus. "Fama est appulsa nave mercatorum nitri, cum sparsi per litus epulas pararent, nec esset cortinis attollendis lapidum occasio, glebas nitri e nave subdidisse. Quibus accensis permista arena littoris transuentes novi liquoris fluxisse rivos et hanc fuisse originem vitri."

grapes, but produce no olives, which renders oil a scarce and dear commodity. The water here is bad, and not always in sufficient quantity for the demand of the inhabitants. I am informed that Terranova has the unpleasant reputation of being more infected with the itch than any other town in Sicily, which proceeds from the brackish water and fiery wine they drink, the salt pork and tunny they live upon, and the inactive life they lead. I leave it to the natives to settle the justice of this accusation, but must observe, that these cutaneous disorders are far from uncommon in the other parts of the island, and that it bears the softer appellation of *sfocaccia*, a heat. I apprehend that dirtiness is a primary cause of the frequency of these salt humours.

Terranova has several remains of antiquity; in the town are some foundations and mutilated fragments of a great temple; at a small distance from the east gate on a bare hill of sand,* a column of the Doric order lies prostrate.

There have been great debates among geographers concerning the situation of Gela, whether it stood at Alicata, or at Terranova. In both places are antique ruins, and behind both an immense plain, to which the name of

* Its component parts are six in number, separate but unbroken, the fall having only disjoined them, not altered their respective positions. No cement had been used, only a bolt. One piece formed the capital five feet long; the others composed the shaft, are fluted, and four feet long each; the diameter at the bottom is five feet, at the top of the shaft, four.

Geloan fields has been applied by antiquaries. I think with Cluverius, that Terranova has the clearer title to represent the ancient city. The account of Agathocles's defeat by the Carthaginians seems to me a strong proof in its favour : they were encamped on the eminences to the west of the river Himera, and the Sicilian tyrant was under a necessity of crossing it before he could make his attack upon them. The Sicilians, being repulsed and routed, fled across the plains, where the Numidian cavalry pursued them with great slaughter, and along the banks of the river ; as the weather was insufferably hot, the soldiers exhausted with fatigue and parched up with thirst, swallowed large draughts of its water, which poisoned many that the sword had spared. Agathocles collected his scattered forces, and retreated to Gela. From this account, the Himera being undoubtedly the same as the Fiume falso, it is evident that Gela could not be where Alicata now stands, but somewhere east of the river. But such amazing changes have happened along this coast since the days of Grecian splendour, that perhaps the towns, whose ruins we are searching for, may now be buried deep under the waves, or sands which have been accumulated at the mouths of the rivers.

Gela was a Rhodian colony, and the parent of other colonies established along the coast ; its story resembles theirs, being composed of great vicissitudes of liberty, prosperity, tyranny, and desolation. It is most remarkable

for the glory its sovereign Gelo acquired, but seems to have lost all consequence long before the Romans subdued Sicily. Strabo ranks it among the uninhabited places of the island*.

S E C T I O N XLIV.

AT Terranova I quitted the southern coast, and directed my course north-east.

The low road was impracticable on account of the late rains, and we were obliged to take a round about way over the high country, which is almost an entire sandy forest of cork trees. The prospects on every side were grand. Towards the west lay an immense plain, bounded

* Numi Gelenfium.

Ex Argento.

1. Dimidium bovis cum capite humano et cornu ΓΕΛΛΑ—Equis corona.
2. Idem—Eques nudus d. baculum tenens.
3. Idem—Vir in bigâ coronatus.
4. Cap. imb. diadem.—Minotaurus gradiens ΓΕ.

Ex Ære.

1. Cap. imb. capillis horridis ΓΕΛΛΑΣ—Bos et ramus.
2. Cap. Apoll.—Minotaurus.
3. Cap. Hercul.—Minotaurus.
4. Dimid. Minotauri.—Bigâ victoria supervol. et coronam impon.
5. Cap. cornut. diadem.—Taurus. 3 glob.
6. Cap. Apoll.—Dimid. Minotauri—delphin K.
7. Cap. imb. diad.—Minotaurus K. 3 globuli.

by

by a gloomy chain of mountains; while the Val di Noto extended on the right like a long peninsula. I now discovered Etna for the first time, towering above all the intermediate mountains, white with snow, and throwing out from its summit a constant but feeble stream of smoke; Lentiscus is the general underwood of this forest, and is called by the Sicilians *stinco**. Wild honey is found in great abundance in these woods, but the inhabitants have also hives near their houses; its flavour is delicious, and has been celebrated from the remotest antiquity, for Hybla was situated in the center of this country. Men may degenerate, may forget the arts by which they acquired renown; manufactures may fail, and commodities be debased; but the sweets of the wild flowers of the wilderness, the industry and natural mechanics of the bee, will continue without change or derogation. From the quality of soil, and the want of water, this upper part of the province must always have had a great deal of waste land.

The corn wore the most promising appearance; the fallow land seemed to be excellent soil. Twenty-three pair of oxen were ploughing together within a square of thirty acres.

Beyond the town we entered a very fine track of vine-

* Perhaps the name given it by the Germans on account of its strong disagreeable smell.

yards, which improved as we gradually approached the mountains of Calatagerone.

Calatagerone, a royal city, containing about seventeen thousand inhabitants, living by agriculture, and the making of potter's ware, is twenty miles from the sea, and situated on the summit of a very high insulated hill, embosomed in thick groves of cypresses; the road to it, though paved, is very steep, difficult, and dangerous for any thing but a mule or an ass. I was conducted to the college of the late Jesuits; and, as the house was compleatly stripped of furniture, full of dirt and cobwebs, I apprehended my night's lodgings would be but indifferent. The servant belonging to the gentleman who has the management of this forfeited estate, and to whom I had brought a letter requesting a lodging in the college, perceiving the difficulties we lay under in making our settlement, ran home, and returned in a short time with a polite invitation to his master's house. There was no refusing such an offer, though I was far from expecting any thing beyond a comfortable apartment, and homely fare, in a family settled among the inland mountains of Sicily; but, to my great surprize, I found the house of the baron of Rosabia, large and convenient, fitted up in a modern taste, with furniture that would be deemed elegant in any capital city in Europe. Every thing suited this outward shew; attendance, table, plate, and equipage. The baron and his lady having both travelled, and seen a great deal of the world,

world, had returned to settle in their native city, where they assured me I might find many families equally improved by an acquaintance with the manners of foreign countries, or, at least a frequentation of the best company in their own metropolis. Nothing could be more easy and polite than their address and conversation, and my astonishment was hourly increasing during my whole stay. After I had refreshed myself with a short but excellent meal, they took me out in a very handsome coach. It was a singular circumstance to meet a string of carriages full of well-dressed ladies and gentlemen on the summit of a mountain, which no vehicle can ascend, unless it be previously taken to pieces, and placed upon the backs of mules. We seemed to be seated among the clouds. As the vast expanse of the hills and vales grew dim with the evening vapours, our parading resembled the amusements of the heathen gods, in some poems and pictures, driving about Olympus, and looking down at the mortals below.

The hour of airing being expired, which consisted of six turns of about half a mile each, a numerous assembly was formed at the baron's house; the manners of the company were extremely polished, and the French language familiar to the greatest part of it. When the card tables were removed, a handsome supper, dressed by a French cook, was served up, with excellent foreign and Sicilian wines; the conversation took a lively turn, and was well supported till midnight, when we all retired to rest.

rest. Calatagerone has several houses that live in the same elegant style, and its inhabitants have the reputation of being the politest people in the island. The climate in this elevated region is extremely different from that of the tepid shores I had lately frequented; the night air was sharp and frosty, and a cloth coat very necessary. Every person in the assembly carried a small silver vase full of hot embers hanging at the wrist.

The town presents few objects worthy a traveller's notice, in the line of any of the arts, and the antiquities it possesses relate to other places. Much has been written by some of the natives to establish an idea of its high antiquity, and that it figured as a republic among the Sicilians, during the zenith of Grecian glory, by the name of Inland Gela or Gelone. The Saracens fortified it, but the Genoese wrested it from them: Their force was however dwindled to a shadow when the Normans arrived. Earl Roger availed himself on many occasions of the trusty valour of the Calatageronese, and rewarded them liberally with estates, which are still in their possession, and render the corporation one of the richest in Sicily.

After leaving the baron's hospitable and agreeable roof, I traversed a plain of arable land, surrounded by bare hills in tillage. The ancient city of Mineo crowns a mountain on the right, and opposite to it the view opens, and discovers a prodigious extent of flat country, that runs up to the foot of Etna. I now distinguished this gigantic moun-

tain from its snowy summit down to the corn fields in the plain, that compose the last circle round its base. The middle region is dark with lavas and forests; below them the vineyards form a zone of a reddish brown colour. At this point we entered upon volcanic ground; the hillocks on each side of the road are mere heaps of lava in various degrees of hardness and colour. The lands are tilled with a species of plough that seems to have been invented in the earliest attempts at cultivation, and still found of sufficient powers for this triturated prolific soil. It consists simply of one handle and a wooden coulter, and is drawn by mules, horses or oxen.

I slept at Palagonia,* that belongs to the same master as the monsters of La Bagaria. I brought no order to his agent, but was accommodated with a room, and in every respect treated as well by him as if I had come loaded with recommendations.

We had now a very hilly country to cross on the skirts of the great plain of Catania. All the rocks that appeared were perfect lavas, some speckled with white crystallisations or schoerl; others thoroughly dark and extremely heavy.

We soon after met cardinal Branciforte, bishop of Girgenti, going to take possession of his see. My people were

* Palagonia contains 1400 inhabitants. It did not exist before the expulsion of the Saracens; was the property of Roger Lauria, admiral under Peter the First. It now belongs to the family of Gravina.

so overjoyed at the sight of some acquaintances among his Neapolitan domestics, and entered so deep into conversation, that they left me to proceed alone ; meanwhile wrapt up in the contemplation of Etna and its grand circumference, I suffered my mule to proceed at its own rate ; the consequence was, that the animal being unacquainted with the country, at the meeting of some cross roads, took the most level but the wrong way, and in a short time left so many hills between me and the right road, that my servants passed on without having a glimpse of me. Upon waking out of my reverie I perceived that they were not following ; but supposing they would soon overtake me, I trotted on towards a town which I took for Lentini. A runner of water drew my beast out of the path to a well, where an old woman was lying on the ground beating her breast and tearing her hair ; she was at the same time, with astonishing volubility of tongue, scolding a very pretty girl, who stood near her with a sullen contemptuous countenance and steady attitude. My mule seemed as much surprized as I was with her noise and gestures, and both of us hesitated some moments whether to approach or pass at a distance. However, as the sight of me had checked the matron's violence, I ventured to draw near and ask the cause of it. That instant both the females sprang forwards and addressed me together. They were so agitated and so boisterous, that I could understand but little of their discourse ; the only words I could make out were

were love, murder, banditti, marriage, the archpriest, and the devil. The old woman's voice failed first, and immediately the young one seizing me by the coat, and my mule by the mane, repeated the cause of their quarrel in a most pleasing tone of voice.

She was the handsomest woman I had seen in the island; her action was extremely graceful, but every nerve in her frame seemed to quiver with passion; numberless strong expressions were, no doubt, lost to me from my incompetent acquaintance with the provincial jargon; but I followed the thread of the story without difficulty. As soon as she had entered fairly upon the subject, the old woman suffered her to go on for some time without interruption.

This girl had been promised in marriage by her mother, the old woman, to a young man of their town, but a few days before the time, on which the wedding was to take place, he was drawn into a scuffle in which he killed his antagonist. Upon this, he fled to the mountains and joined the company of a famous captain of out-laws, who for twenty years had defied the whole tribe of thief-takers; he had several times cut his way through troops of *capitan real* and escaped by the fleetness of his horse to the caverns and wildernesses that environ Castrogrianni. However, the lover was scarce entered as an associate, before the captain and all his followers were surprized and carried in chains to Catania. This account having reached the native town of the bridegroom, a meeting of his friends

had been held, wherein the archpriest and a lawyer had proposed that a sum of money should be raised, which they would carry to Catania to buy him off; but unluckily the meeting was poor, and the only resource they had was in a legacy left to the bride by an uncle: This money she steadily refused to part with for a highwayman, a fellow she would never marry though he were to come back. Here the mother slipped in a few words to inform me, that the cause of this refusal did not lie in her daughter's delicacy, but in her inconstancy; for she had fallen in love with another man, who had seduced her affections by secrets of the black-art that he had learnt at Malta.

The storm now began to rage again, and with much difficulty I obtained a hearing. I told them I suspected the lawyer meant to trick them out of their money, as it was impossible it could be of any avail in the case. I had been informed that the out-laws, whom the magistrates were determined to make an example of, would be hanged before he could reach Catania; and I, therefore, advised the two females to shake hands and be friends. They did so with the same vehemence that they had displayed in the course of the quarrel, and walked merrily along with me towards the town. I soon found by their discourse that it was not Lentini, and, therefore, taking an abrupt leave of my company, I galloped back to the crossing of the roads, leaving them, perhaps, impressed with an idea that I was a supernatural being, which my foreign accent and
2 appearance

appearance would strongly corroborate. I arrived at Lentini just as the campiere and a countryman were coming to look for me; my Neapolitan servant had laughed at them for their anxiety about me, assuring them, that he knew me too well to be under any apprehensions for my safety, and that I had only wandered out of the road to draw an old wall, or watch the reflection of the rocks in a puddle.

SECTION XLV.

LENTINI was esteemed one of the most ancient cities of Sicily, for the fruitfulness of its soil was supposed to have drawn inhabitants to it as soon as mankind emerged from the savage state, and discovered the advantages of agriculture and society. The Naxians were the first Greeks that invaded it, and from them it received the form and dignity of a principal city; like other Grecian states, it had its tyrants, but none of them were such severe masters as the Syracusans when they subdued this little commonwealth. The yoke grew daily more intolerable, and the Leontinians secretly applied for relief to Athens, at that time the umpire of Greece. The task of persuading that polite nation to engage warmly in their cause was imposed upon Gorgias, a citizen of uncommon eloquence, a talent well calculated for the pre-

sent purpose ; he wrought so artfully upon the passions of his hearers, that an alliance was formed, and war carried into the territories of Syracuse ; but time and experience opened the eyes of the Sicilians, and taught them to see the folly of destroying each other, so peace was made, and the Leontinians submitted to act a subordinate part and enjoy the blessings of tranquillity under the guardianship of their more powerful neighbours. Dissentions, however, arose ; tyrants disturbed their quiet, and various calamities afflicted them till Rome overcame all opposition, and established her despotic sway over the island ; but as this people had always acted in concert with her enemies, she confiscated and appropriated the Leontine plains peculiarly to the maintenance of the people of Rome ; However a competency seems to have been left, for the Leontinians were reputed the greatest drunkards and voluptuaries among the Greeks long after they had lost their liberty.

Lentini, once a city of note, is now a poor ill built solitary town, reduced to this state by various revolutions, but principally by the desolation of 1693. All its buildings were thrown down, and nothing is left that can detain a curious stranger an hour ; the present dwellings are plain and humble.

The situation is very unwholesome during summer and autumn on account of its vicinity to the lake of Biveri, and a great space of country covered with fens and ponds, which in all ages have infected its atmosphere. These waters

ters abound with eels and tench; of the roes the fishermen make a large quantity of butarga, a species of caviar; it is very salt, and has a strong taste of tar, but is much relished by the Sicilians.

The hills that inclose Lentini on the east side are hollowed into many large cavities, where saltpetre is produced in great quantities; people are constantly employed in scraping it off the walls and carrying it to a boiler. As few signs of ancient buildings are to be met with, I suppose the materials were used in the construction of a castle, which in its turn is compleatly ruined.

The fertility of the Leontine plains has been a constant theme for admiration and declamation to all authors that have written on the history of the island*. Diodorus, from the report of others, says, that in the Leontine fields, and many other parts of Sicily, wheat grew wild; but whether he meant the common couch grass, which is called by botanists *triticum sylvestre*, or any other plant, which by culture could be so improved as to produce a grain fit for grinding into wholesome flour, is a point not sufficiently explained. It is clear that the wheat plant must have suffered some alteration under the operations of agriculture, and cannot be supposed to resemble exactly the wild origi-

* Εὐν δὲ τῷ Λεοντίνῳ πεδίῳ καὶ κατὰ πολλὰς ἄλλας τόπους τῆς Σικελίας μέχρι τῶν Φυεσθαί φαίνιν τὰς ἀγρίαις ὀνομαζομένης πυρρῆς.

In Leontina planitie et apud multos alios locos Siciliæ usque ad hunc diem dicunt gigni triticum quod agreste vocant..

nal plant that still grows on the waste, But we have not sufficient documents to prove that Sicily is the country where the discovery of the good qualities of this grain was made, and from whence other countries have derived their knowledge of that branch of husbandry *.

* Numi Leontinorum.

Ex Argento.

1. Cap. Apollinis inter 2 folia sub. leo currens AEONTINON—Figura vir. in quadr. supervolit. vict. sub. leo.
2. Cap. leonis 4 grana hordei AEONTINON—Vir nudus equo incideus.
3. Cap. Apoll.—Cap. leon. 4 gran. AEONTINON.
4. Cap. imb.—Gran. hord. AEON.
5. Cap. leon. AEONT—Vir nud. stans d. paterem s. ramum pone fol.
6. Cap. Apoll.—Cap. leon. tripus 3 fol. AEONTINON.
7. Leo dimid. respiciens ungue tenens ossa—quatuor areæ decuss. lacerta AEO.
8. Leo dim. resp. AEONTINON—Hasta et clave 2 glob.
9. Cap. Leon. 4 gran.—In corona heder. AEONTINON.
10. Cap. Bacchi hed cor. AEONTINON—Cap. Leon. 4 gr.

Ex Ære.

1. Cap. imb. laus.—Ceres stans d. duas spicas s. lanc. ten. aratrum AEONTINON.
2. Cap. Cereris, atrum—Manipulus spicarum AEONTINON.
3. 2 capita Jugata alt. imb. alt. barb.—Manip. AEONTINON.
4. Cap. Apoll. duplici lauro coron. AEON—Aquila et coluba.
5. Cap. Apoll. 2 pisces AEONTINON.
6. Cap. imb.—pagurus—Mulier vel. st. d. papaves s tridentem ten. AEONTINON.
7. Cap. Apoll.—Aratrum—Leo gradiens AEONTINON.
8. Cap. Apoll. gran. AEON—Tripus et 2 gran.
9. Dimid. Leonis—Area quadrif. o. x. vas.
10. Dimid. Leon.—Area quadr.—globus et ramus.
11. Cap. imb. laur.—Olor AEO ΓΟΡΓΙΑΣ.

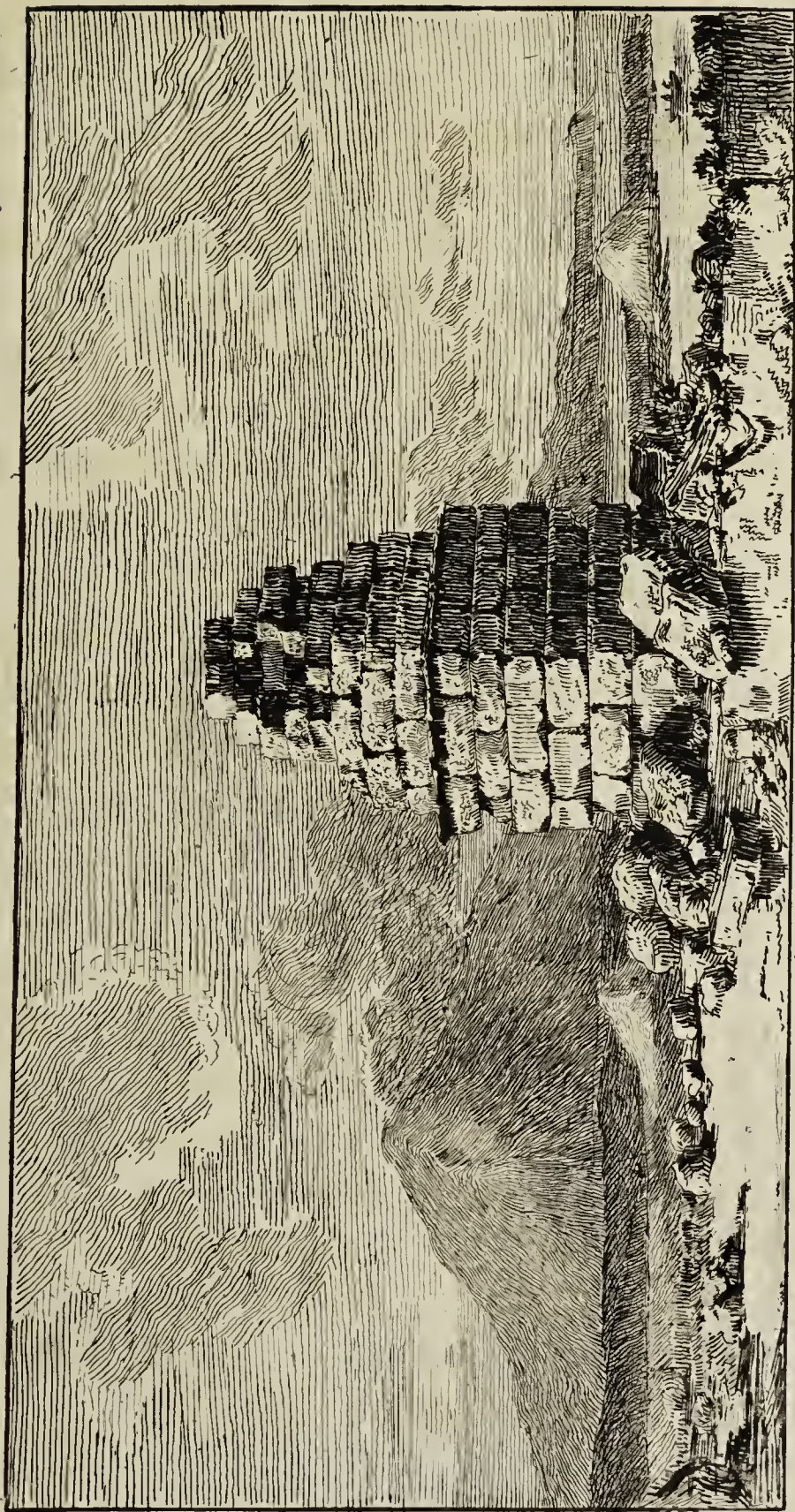
About

About two miles from Lentini, we passed before Car-
lentini, a town of three thousand souls, built by Charles
the Fifth, and almost ruined by an earthquake. It was
placed on an eminence, to be out of the reach of the un-
wholesome vapours of the marshes. The country behind
is very pleasant, and resembles many tracks of forest land
in the south of England; the hills are of moderate eleva-
tion, separated by wild woody dingles, with clear brooks
tumbling down the rocks, overshadowed by large unlopped
olive trees. In the course of a few miles, the landscape
grew much barer and the hills higher; the surface stony,
with a ragged covering of short grass. It possesses few
romantic beauties, except where the grey rocks yawn to
yield a passage for the torrents, and where some wild fig-
trees hang over the gloomy hollows. From the elevation
of the country, a variety of exquisite views may be en-
joyed on every side, principally towards the north-east,
where Etna, Catania, the straits of Messina, and the
coast of Italy, form the grand line of the horizon. The
strata of the hills near Lentini are to be classed with the
volcanic tribes of stones; these ended gradually as I ap-
proached the sea, and were succeeded by a cementation of
marine sediments. The flocks of sheep that wander in the
pastures are almost all black; the ewes had already yeaned.
I now came to the brow of this high country, and com-
manded the whole track of low lands along the gulf of
Augusta. The vale immediately at the foot of the hills
is

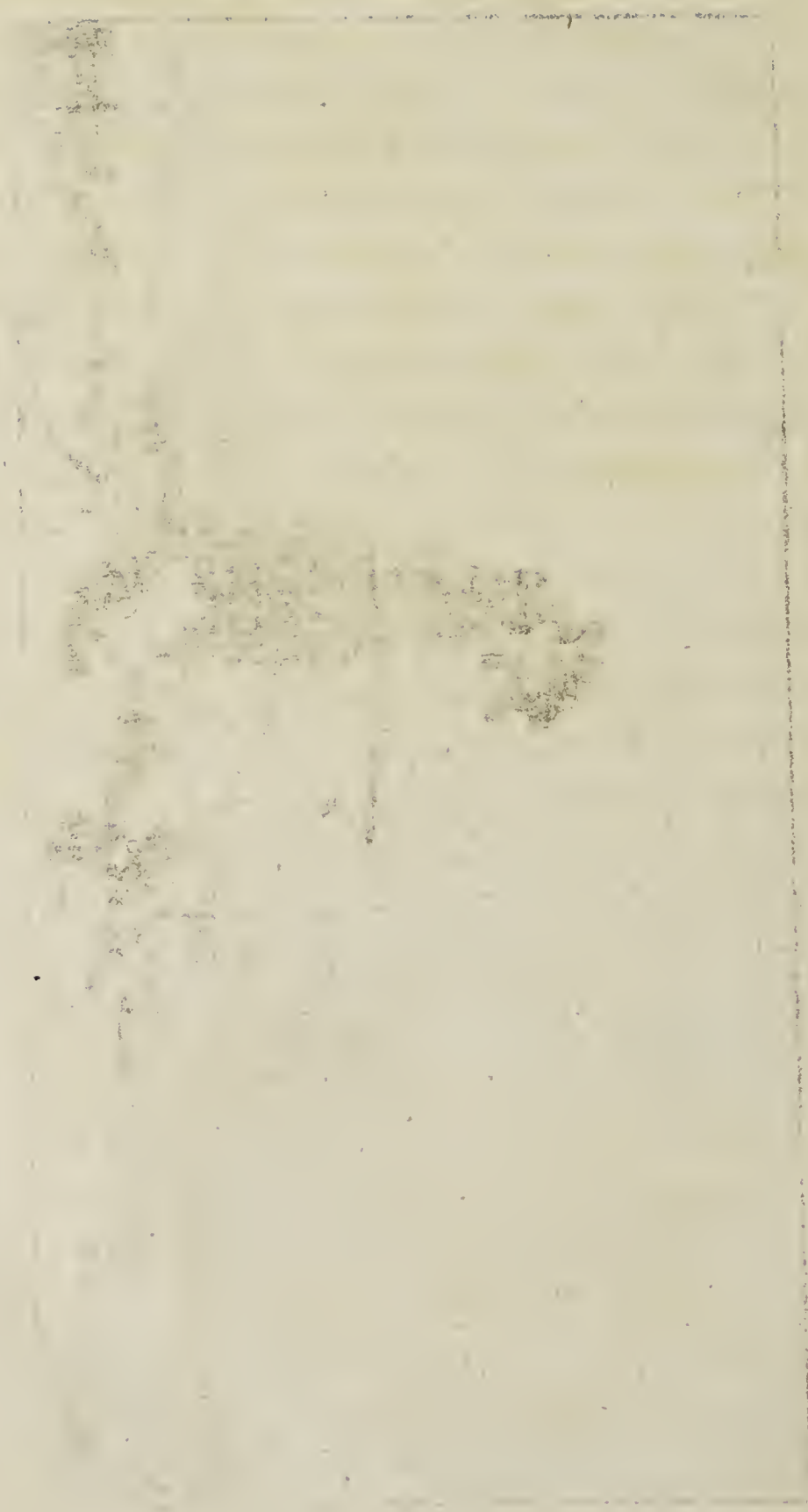
is neatly planted with Agrumi, and divided into vineyards and gardens, watered by copious streams that turn a string of mills. Beyond this well-cultivated slip of land, lies a wide range of barren heath along the sea shore. Augusta is a fine object from this point of view, situated on a narrow peninsula at the bottom of a bay. We soon after descended to the beach near an ancient monument called L'Agulia, or Needle, supposed to have been erected by Marcellus in commemoration of his conquest of Syracuse*. It consists of a pedestal, nine feet square, built with seven courses of stones. It has the zocle entire, and faint traces of the cornice. Upon this was placed a round building, of which eight courses of the stone-work remain, but much shaken; the upper part was thrown down in 1542, by the shock of an earthquake; Fazzello says it was of a pyramidical form, but as that author shews little knowledge of architecture on other occasions, I rather trust to the testimony of the part that remains; this is clearly round, and indicates a column of many pieces, not a pyramid. Two attempts have been made to break into the dye of the pedestal, in hopes of hidden treasure; but as they do not seem to have been able to penetrate, I infer, that the whole is a solid piece of masonry.

On a hill westward is Melilli, a town where the sugar cane is still cultivated. Near the sea are ponds for making

* D'Orville thinks it was a tomb.



THE COLUMN OF MARCELLUS AT THE MASNISI BETWEEN AUGUSTA AND SYRACUSE.



salt, which is piled up in great conical heaps. At the point of the peninsula of Magnisi is one of the most productive tunny fisheries in Sicily. After four miles riding from the Aguglia, we came to a ridge of high rocks that run from east to west, and shut up the plain entirely. On the summit are the ruins of the walls, with which the ancient city of Syracuse was surrounded; an ascent is cut through the rock, at a place called Scala Greca, where the tower is supposed to have stood that was surprised by the Romans. Having gained the summit, I traversed a large plain, four miles wide, full of loose stones, but divided into orchards. I then arrived at the descent on the south side, and had a full view of Syracuse and its environs. The bishop, who was apprized of my coming, was so obliging as to meet me out of town, and carry me in his coach to a very handsome apartment in his palace.

S Y R A C U S E.

S E C T I O N XLVI.

THE fame of states now no longer existing lives in books or tradition, and we reverence their memory in proportion to the wisdom of their laws, the private virtues of their citizens, the policy and courage with which they defended their own dominions, or advanced their victorious standards into those of their enemies; some nations have rendered their name illustrious, though their virtues and valour had but a very confined sphere to move in, while other commonwealths and monarchies have subdued worlds, and roamed over whole continents in search of power and glory. Syracuse must be numbered in the former class, and among the most distinguished of that class: In public and private wealth, magnificence of buildings, military renown, and excellence in all arts and sciences,

sciences, it ranks higher than most nations of antiquity; the great names recorded in its annals still command our veneration, though the trophies of their victories, and the monuments of their skill have long been swept away by the hand of time. *

In

* Numi Syracusanorum.

Ex Auro.

1. Jovis caput laur. fulmen ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Pegasus ΑΥΣΩΝ.
2. Cap. Herculis imb. ΣΤΡΑΚ—Area quadrifida in medio cap. muliebre ΣΤΡΑ.
3. Cap. mulieb. concha lyra ΣΩΤΕΙΡΑ—Cap. Apoll. lyra et triangulum ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
4. Cap. Apoll.—Lyra ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
5. Cap. Apoll.—Vas ardens—Tripus ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
6. Cap. mulieb. gran. hord. ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ ΚΙ—Hercules leon. stran. gran.
7. Cap. mul. 4 delph.—Vir in quadr. triquetra ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
8. Cap. vir imb.—Vir in biga trique. ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
9. Cap. Cereris—cornucopiæ ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Bigas in qua vir alat. barb. luna annulus ΕΠΗΚΕΤΑ.
10. Cap. imb.—Vir in biga Τ ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
11. Cap. mul.—Sæpia.
12. Cap. mulieb. eleph. dent. cor.—Bos ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
13. Cap. mul. diad. 4 pisc. ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Quadriga fig. stol. superv. vict. corona. spica.
14. Vultus plenus capill. contort. spic. cor. 4 pisc.—Bigas sup. vol. vict. et cor. imp.
15. Cap. Pallad. gal.—Cap. Medusæ.
16. Cap. id. ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Diana grad. pharet. arc. tend. canis ad pedes ΣΩ ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
17. Cap. id. cap. bovis Ν—Pegasus ϙ
18. Cap. Apoll. ΠΝ—Cap. Dianæ arcus.

T T 2

19. Cap.

In the sketch prefixed to this tour, the Sicilian history is in a manner that of Syracuse, and therefore sufficient to

19. Cap. imb. ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Equus decurrens in quadratâ areâ ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

20. Jovis Cap. ΥΣ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΟΣ—Pegasus ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

Ex Argento.

1. Cap. Palladis gal.—Dianæ phar. canis ΙΞΑ.

2. Cap. mul. prisc.—ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Polypus.

3. Cap. mul. ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Vir nud. equo inf.

4. Facies mul. pl. 3 prisc.—Vir nud. eques. lyra.

5. Cap. averfa imb. laur. ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ prisc.—Equus. stella.

6. Cap. mul. in quad.—Eques ΣΤΡΑ.

7. Cap. Apoll. ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Triquetra.

8. Cap. Cereris 3 prisc.—Vir togat. in quadr. supr. triquat. ΑΙ ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

9. Cap. Cerer. 4 pifc. ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Quadr. Victor. tropæa.

10. Cap. mul. diad. 4 prisc.—Vict. in quadr. vict.

superv. cor. triton bifida cauda vas ten. humero. piscis. squilla.

11. Cap. Herc. imb.—Quadrig. vict. supervol. 2 vase.

12. Fac. mul. plen. diad. capit. contort. 3 pifc.—Mulier. in quadr. vict. superv. I spica.

13. Cap. mul. 4 pifc. ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Vir nud. in big. vict. superstante d. coronam ten.

14. Cap. Apoll. 4 prisc. ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Vir in big. supervol. vict. leo.

15. Cap. Herc. barb.—Vir nud. in big. ΜΙΑ ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

16. In area rotunda decuss. cap. mul.—Biga ΣΤΡΑ.

17. Cap. mul. diad. 4 pifces ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Dimid. Pegasi.

18. Cap. mul.—In quadr. area ΣΤΡΑ 2 pifces.

19. Cap. mul.—Area quadr.

20. Cap. Pall.—Noctua ramo infid. clava ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

21. Aquila ardeam discerp. ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Pagurus 2 pifc.

22. Vir nud. trid. Jacul. ΣΤΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Prora navis.

to give as much insight into the revolutions of that re-
public, as is necessary for understanding my observations
on

23. Cap. Apoll.—Lyra ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
 24. Cap. Jovis—Tridens 2 pisc. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
 25. Cap. mul. plena facie 4 pisc. ΣΥ ΩΝ—Vir nud. clyp. et hast. ten.
leo.
 26. Cap. Pall. pisc.—Fulmen ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ ΒΑΣ.
 27. Cap. id.—Pegasus ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ triquetra.
 28. Cap. id. clava. piscis ΣΥΡΑ—Pegasus. triqu.
 29. Cap id.—Pegasus. triquetra.
 30. Duo capita imb. gal. pegata—Pegasus cum habenis Λ.
 31. Cap. mulieb.—Pegasus ΣΙ.
 32. Cap. mul. cap bovinum—Pegasus ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
 33. Cap. Pall.—Pegasus bibens.
 34. Cap. Herculis—In area quadr. cap. mul. ΣΥΡΑ.
 35. Cap. mul. pl. facie—Noctue ram. insist.
 36. Cap. Jovis ΣΕΥΣ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΟΣ—Pegasus ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
 37. Cap. Jovis ΣΕΥΣ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΟΣ—Fulmen. gr. hord. ΣΥΡΑΚΟ-
ΣΙΩΝ.
 38. Cap. Cereris ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Fig. Alata in big. fulm. spic. ΕΠΗ-
ΚΕΤΑ.
 39. Cap. Apoll. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Cap. Dianæ turpis.
 40. Cap. mul. plen. fac. gal. et alat. 4 pisces—Mulier in quadriga vict.
superv. 2 pisces.
 41. Cap. mul. spicis red. 4 pisc. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Spica.
 42. Cap. mul. 4 pisc. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Dimid. Pegasi—stella.
- Ex Ære.
1. Cap. vir rad.—Mul. grad. luna in capite et baculo in sin. ΣΥΡΑΚΟ-
ΣΙΩΝ.
 2. Idem—Fig. nud. d. cor. s. bacillum ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
 3. Cap. vir imb.—Mul. stol. stans. d. sceptr. s. bacul. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
 4. Cap. vir. barb. spic. red.—Diana. canis.
 5. Cap. Dianæ—Vir nud. phar. s. arc. d. cornuc. ΣΥΡΑ.
 6. Cap. gal.—Victoria animal sacrificans ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
 7. Cap.

on its present state. Its chronicles commemorate endless and bitter dissensions among the several ranks of citizens, the

7. Cap. mul. ΣΥΡΑ—stella in ar. decuss.
8. Cap. Apoll. ΔΙΟΣ ΕΛΛΑΝΙΟΥ—Aquila fulm. infid. stella ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
9. Cap. Apoll.—Aquila fulm. infid. stella.
10. Cap. Jovis in laur—Aquila lyra.
11. Cap. Herculis—Aquila.
12. Cap. barb. diad. lade—Tridens ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
13. Cap. Jovis—Mul. ft. d. tem. s. hast. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
14. Cap. mul. piscis—Stella ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—piscis.
15. Cap. id.—polypus.
16. Mulieris facies plena—polypus
17. Cap. mul. concha ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Taurus ΑΚ 2. piscis.
18. Cap. mul. concha.—Delphin, nux pinea ΣΥΡΑ.
19. Duo capita gal. Jug.—Delphin 3 Jacula. ΚΟ.
20. Cap. Pall. ΣΥΡΑ—Stella int. 2 delp.
21. Facies imb. plen.—Dimid. Pegasi ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
22. Cap. Jov. ΕΑΕΟΣ—Dimid Peg. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
23. Cap. mul. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Dim. Peg.
24. Cap. vir. laur. imb. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Dim. Equi. delp.
25. Pall. cap. gal. 2 delp. ΣΥΡΑ—Pistrix. triquetra.
26. Cap. imb. vir. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Pistrix.
27. Cap. martis ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Pegasus Σ.
28. Cap. Apoll. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Pegasus Α.
29. Minotaurus cap. pleno delp. 2. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Vir. nud. in quad. Vict. supero. 2 coronas imp.
30. Cap. mul. Apis—Vir nud. in quadr. stella ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
31. Cap. mul. 4 delp. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—mulier in biga vict. supera.
32. Cap. mul. spica ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Biga. stella. Τ.
33. Cap. vir. barb. laur.—Vict. in biga. luna ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
34. Dianæ cap. ΣΩΤΕΙΡΑ—Fulmen ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

the destruction of liberty by tyrants, their expulsion and re-establishment, victories over the Carthaginians, and
many

35. Cap. Jovis—Fulmen Acis ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
36. Cap. Pall.—Fulmen ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
37. Cap. Jov. ΣΕΥΣ ΕΛΕΘΕΡΙΟΣ—Pegasus ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
38. Cap. Herculis—Pegasus.
39. Duo cap. Jug. 2 pisces ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.—Equus N spica.
40. Cap. imb.—equus.
41. Cap. barb.—mul. stans d. ferciam s hast. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
42. Cap. imb. spic. red.—Ceres d. papau. s. tædam. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
43. Cereris cap.—2 tædæ ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
44. Cap. imb. gram. red. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—In coron. pamp. aretrum.
45. Cap. Cerer. cornucopiæ—In coron. spicar. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
46. Cap. Gelonis diad. arcus ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ. Leo clava et arcus.
47. Cap. vir. diad. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Triquetra.
48. Nept. cap. trid—Triquetra ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
49. Cap. mul. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Dimid. minst.
50. Cap. Hercul.—Pharet. arcus ΣΥ.
51. Cap. Apoll.—Pharetra ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
52. Cap. imb.—Clava ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
53. Cap. spic. red—In laureâ clava.
54. Cap. Pallad. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Eques hastam ger Λ
55. Cap. imb.—Eques ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
56. Cap. Apoll.—Duo Equiter manibus sublatis ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
57. Cap. Hercul. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Minerva stans s. clyp. d hast. rota.
58. Cap. mul.—Leo ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
59. Cap. Apoll. delphin—Tripus ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
60. Cap. min.—2 piscus ΣΥΡΑ—Pistrix.
61. Cap. radiat—miles grad. cum hast et clyp. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
62. Cap. Jovis—Aquila tripus ΚΟ.
63. Cap. Jovis ΣΕΙΔΑ—tridens 2 pisces Σ.
64. Cap. imb. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Equus recumbens.

65. Cap.

many noble struggles to vindicate the rights of mankind, till the fatal hour arrived when the Roman Leviathan swallowed all up. Inglorious peace and insignificance was afterwards for many ages the lot of Syracuse, and, probably, the situation was an eligible one, except in times of such governors as Verres; at length Rome herself fell in her turn a prey to conquest, and barbarians divided her ample spoils. The Vandals seized upon Sicily, but it soon was wrested from them by Theodoric the Goth, and at his death fell into the hands of the eastern emperor. Totila afflicted Syracuse with a long but fruitless siege, but it was not so well defended against the Saracens.

65. Cap. imb.—Flos. 2 spicæ ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

66. Duo cap. averfa barb.—Instrumentum quoddam ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

67. Cap. Cereris—Pegasus.

68. Cap. Jovis—Mulier stans d. coron. s. hast. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

69. Cap. Herculis—ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Minerva ense et clyp. arm.

70. Cap. mul. olea. cor. red. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.—Bos cornupeta clava

ΙΣ

71. Cap. mul. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Dim. Pegasi.

72. Cap. mul. gran. red. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Mulier in biga—stella Σ.

73. Cap. Jovis—Fulmen. piscis ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

74. Cap. mul. diad.—In 4 partibus ΣΥΡΑ. 2 pisces.

75. Cap. Apoll.—Triquetra.

76. Cap. imb—Stella 4 radios 2 pisces ΣΥΡΑ.

77. Cap. vir. barb. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Leo Φ

78. Cap. Apoll.—Polypus.

79. Cap. Jani rad. barb.—Locusta ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

80. Cap. Cereris—Equus.

81. Cap. Minervæ—Pegasus.

These

These cruel enemies took it twice, and exercised the most savage barbarities on the wretched inhabitants. The infidels kept possession of it two hundred years, and made an obstinate resistance against earl Roger in this fortress, which was one of the last of their possessions that yielded to his victorious arms.

The ancient city of Syracuse was of a triangular form, and consisted of five parts or towns. Ortygia, or the island; Acradina, that faced the sea; Tycha, joined to Acradina on the east; Neapolis, which lay along the side of the great port; and, at the eastern extremity, Epipolæ, an uninhabited tract inclosed within the city walls; some lofty rocks crowned with ramparts formed a strong defence all round, except in Neapolis, where the walls crossed the low grounds. The circuit, according to Strabo, amounted to 180 stadia, or 22 English miles, and four furlongs; an account I once suspected of exaggeration, but, after spending two days in tracing the ruins, and making reasonable allowances for the encroachments of the sea, I was convinced of the exactness of his measurement.

Ortygia is of an oblong shape, about two miles in circumference, and lies between two bays, the great and small harbour. The Siculi had a settlement here, before Archias came from Corinth with his Greeks, and drove them into the inland country. When population increased to that amazing degree that Ortygia became unable to contain the inhabitants, the narrow arm of the sea that made

Ortygia,

it an island was filled up, and a peninsula formed. During the triumvirate, Sextus Pompeius treated Syracuse with great rigour, and when it was restored by order of Augustus, the citizens were confined to the original island, and the parts of Acradina that bordered upon it, and the rest of the most magnificent city in the world was left to become the habitation of wild beasts, and birds of the night. Such was its state when taken by the Musulmen; it then suffered still farther devastation, and was reduced to Ortygia alone. At present it is strongly fortified towards the land, and the ditches of the bastions form the communications between the two havens. It is very weak towards the sea, but the shelves render it hazardous to debark on that side. The garrison is one of the best appointed in the kingdom, but I think the heights of Acradina command the works.

About eighteen thousand inhabitants are now contained in it. The dwellings are far from being memorials of ancient Syracusan architecture or opulence. In any other situation they might be thought tolerable, but to observers who reflect on the style of those buildings that probably once covered the same ground, the present edifices must have a mean appearance. The cathedral now dedicated to Our Lady of the Pillar, was the temple of Minerva, on the summit of which her statue was fixed holding a broad refulgent shield. Every Syracusan that sailed out of the port was bound by his religion to carry honey, flowers, and
ashes,

ashes, which he threw into the sea, the instant he lost sight of the holy buckler; this was to ensure a safe return. The church is made out of the old building, the walls of the cella are thrown down, and only as much left in pillars as is necessary to support the roof; the intercolumniations of the peryptile are walled up*. This temple is built in the old Doric proportions used in the rest of Sicily; its exterior dimensions are 185 feet in length, and 75 in breadth. The columns taper, have twenty flutings, and measure at the base six feet five inches; their height, including the capital, and a small socle instead of base, is 32 feet 9 inches.

The portico and frontispiece were destroyed by an earthquake, and a new facade erected, which reflects little honour on the judgment or skill of the architect; he has composed a front of the Corinthian order, quite different from the style of the inside, and loaded it with so many frivolous ornaments, and subdivided it into so many trifling parts, that all grandeur of effect, symmetry and taste are compleatly banished. There are also some remains of Diana's temple, near to St. Paul's church, but not remarkable. I could find no other ruins in the island, and indeed was surpris'd even these should exist in a place so

* Mirabella has given a most erroneous drawing of this temple; and D'Orville's draughtsman has indulged his imagination, without paying any attention to the present state of the edifice.

often devastated by enemies, and so shaken and unhinged by frequent convulsions of the globe. A most destructive shock happened in the sixteenth century, but was slight, in comparison of the horrid concussion of 1693. On the 11th of January, the earth shook during a space of four minutes, and overturned almost every city on the eastern coast—One fourth of the inhabitants of Syracuse perished under the ruins of their houses—Augusta was levelled to the ground, with half its people crushed to death, but Catania had the largest proportion of calamity—Above sixty thousand persons lost their lives in Sicily in that fatal hour.

The quay is small, yet I fear it is more than sufficient for every commercial purpose of the port. Near it is a large pool of water defended from the sea by a wall, and almost hidden by houses on every other side—The water is not salt, but brackish, and fit for no purpose but washing linen. This is the celebrated fountain of Arethusa, whose soft poetical name is known to every reader—The fable of the nymph and her constant lover Alpheus, the excellence of the spring, and the charms of its situation, are themes on which ancient and modern poets have indulged their fancy, and exercised their pens. Alas! how altered! rubbish chokes up its wholesome sources, the waves have found a passage through the rocks, which repeated earthquakes have split, and not a fish is to be seen in it. Sometimes, after an earthquake, it has been left dry, and, at other times, the whole mass of its waters have been tainted by
subterraneous

subterraneous effluvia. Its fountain head probably lies among the neighbouring hills. Not Arethusa alone, but all the surrounding objects imprint a melancholy sensation on the mind, while it draws a comparison between the present humble state of things, and their once flourishing condition. The ancients have left pompous descriptions of the traffic carried on in this well-situated port*, the almost incredible wealth possessed by its citizens, and the splendid edifices upon which they lavished a great part of their riches. I had already viewed the desert sites of many great ancient cities, and had as often mourned over their remains, but never did I feel the impression of pity and regret so strong as in wandering among the ruins of Syracuse.

S E C T I O N XLVII.

I PROCEEDED to Acradina, which extends over Acradina. two considerable levels, the first low and even with the island, the other, divided from the first by a natural wall of rocks, lies on the same heights with Tycha. As I left my lodgings early, in order to spend the whole day

* It was common among the ancients to reprove any person boasting of his own or another's wealth by a proverbial sarcasm: "The tenth part of a Syracusan fortune was more than all that."

in the old city, I formed a regular plan of riding round, close to the walls, measuring and drawing every material object. In the low grounds stands the church of St. John, one of the oldest christian churches in Sicily; it covers the entrance of immense catacombs, where the ancient Syracusans buried their dead; the primitive faithful are supposed to have assembled here secretly in times of persecution, and also to have interred their brethren in these vaults. The pillars of the church are in the oldest, heaviest, and simplest style of Gothic, and the walls covered with very bad painting. I hastened to the vaults, which are formed in streets cut through one continued stratum of soft stone, a sediment of marine bodies. These subterraneous alleys cross each other in many directions, and are hewn with more care and regularity than the catacombs of St. Januarius at Naples; those of Rome are not to be compared to either. At stated distances I came to large circular rooms lined with stucco, and pierced at top to admit light and air. On each side of the walls are recesses cut into the rock, and in the floor of these cavities coffins of all sizes have been hollowed out, some even so small as to be fit for nothing but the reception of a cat or a lap-dog. In some places there are twenty troughs, one behind another; skeletons have been often found in them, with a piece of money in their mouths. I saw a gold coin of the time of Icetas that was just taken out of the jaws of a body found in a tomb here.

From hence I ascended the hill to a convent of Capuchin friars, a light neat church. When a stranger walks up to this monastery, he sees near him neither verdure nor tree; all appears one bare dreary rock, and little does he suspect he is within reach of extensive orchards, which by their produce yield a handsome income to the friars. No sight can be more singular than the gardens of this convent, which are in some measure subterraneous, being contained in the areas of immense excavations, made by cutting stone for the ancient city. I descended by a slope into these extraordinary bowers, where my view was confined on all sides by shaggy walls of great height, either purposely hewn into shape, or rudely figured by the corrosive sea air. Huge masses have been broken off, and rolled on the platform, where they contribute to the composition of a most wild, yet solemn picture. The area is covered with a thick grove of trees, loaded with rich scented blossoms and beautiful fruit; I was delighted with their variety of kinds, vigour of growth and brilliancy of foliage; the slim branches of the pale olive were interwoven with the bushy heads of orange, lemon, bergamot and cedrat trees, while the tender colour of the full blown almond formed a fine contrast with the fiery buds of the pomegranate, just bursting into blow. The gardeners have skilfully increased the variety of their fruits by grafting and budding, and have procured a great diversity in their taste and colour. One of the friars brought me an orange, half of which was the original

ginal red pulp of that fruit, the other half was the tough pale flesh of the cedrato.

There are several sepulchres in these quarries, and some projections of the stone are scooped into rings, by which I conjecture, that after the place ceased to be used as a quarry, it was converted into a prison.

The vaults of this convent have the property of drying the bodies of the dead in a very short space of time ; after which they are dressed in religious habits, and placed as statues in niches on each side of subterraneous alleys.

I passed on to the sea side, where no traces of antiquity subsist, except some steps and a few courses of stones ; not a vestige of house, temple, or monument is to be seen on this extensive plain, once the most crowded, best built quarter of Syracuse. It is difficult to conceive what can so thoroughly have cleared the surface, or, as I may say, annihilated the materials with which so large a city was built ; the rock is soft and friable, but scarcely so brittle as to fall into dust in the air, and be quite blown away ; no works or buildings within many miles of Syracuse could have employed a tenth part of what was necessary for the construction of such a town. The sea has undermined the shore, and consumed that part, on which the walls were founded.

S E C T I O N XLVIII.

AT the bottom of the bay of Manghifi, formerly called Thapfus, near the port of the Trogili, now called Stentino, Achradina terminated, and Tycha commenced. Tycha.

The outermost wall erected by Dionysius the elder is visible without interruption for some miles, following all the sinuosities of the hill from Scala Græca, through which I had entered this ancient inclosure. At a small distance from this place, I came to a second gate, of which a great part is yet standing. From hence I traced a street by the marks of wheels deeply worn in the rock, and by the holes in the middle where the beasts that drew the carriages placed their feet; this indicates that vehicles in common use were drawn by horses yoked one before another; The same marks were visible wherever any traces of streets could be discovered. The fields within and near the walls are covered with immense heaps of stones thrown confusedly together. On the outside of the walls, a green slope reaches from the foot of the rocks to the plain, and is covered with aged olive trees of great size.

At the promontory, where the declivity is easy towards Epipolæ. the country, and the grove remarkably thick, I discerned the traces of a high road: Here I imagine stood that part

of the wall that had six doors in it, and was called Hexapylum. A little farther, the hill grows contracted and almost covered with the ruins of a fortress, probably Eurialus; they are piled up on several hillocks, and command a full view of the country on both sides of Syracuse. Towards the north the eye wanders over vast plains, along a line of coast to the foot of Etna, whose mighty cone shuts up the horizon with unspeakable majesty; the mountains of Italy rise like clouds on each side of it. The southern prospect presents a very different landscape, but not less pleasing; the city of Syracuse seems to float on the bosom of the waters, guarding the entrance of its noble harbour. The Plemmyrian peninsula locks it in on the opposite shore, and beyond it a fine expanse of sea stretches away to Cape Passaro. The hills of Noto bound the view to the south-west, and the fore-ground is a track of rich level plains, thickly planted, and watered by the winding streams of the Anapus.

* This spot was the extremity of Epipolæ, and consequently of the whole city, but not of the rocks, which run two miles farther west, and terminate in a lofty protuberance, called from the extensive prospect it commands, Belvedere. Epipolæ was not taken into Syracuse, and inclosed with walls, till the reign of the elder Dionysius; he employed so many thousands of men, carts, and oxen,

* Cluverius thinks that Epipolæ extended to Belvedere.

and.

and gave such bounties to the able and active labourer, that in twenty days he compleated a wall of large hewn stone, three miles and fix furlongs in length; the walls between Epipolæ, Tycha, and Neapolis were afterwards demolished as uselefs.

I now purfued my round in a contrary direction, following the wall on the fouth fide of the city; parallel with its ruins, which are not fo apparent here as on the northern afpect, runs a fream brought from Monte Crimiti in fubterraneous channels: It was thus kept out of fight till it entered the walls, left an enemy fhould difcover it, and cut off the fupply. Soon after the aqueduct has paffed the place where the caſtle of Labdalum flood, the water appears above ground *; under the ruins of Labdalum is a quarry, or latomiæ. Near this ſpot ſeveral ſtreets croſſed each other, but no remains are to be found of any buildings. Tycha, I diſcovered two regular oblong areas, deep cut in the rocky ſtratum, which I ſuppoſe were the foundations of ſome hall or temple. Leaving the wall at a diſtance on my right hand, I rode along the ſtraight line of the ſream, now received into an aqueduct upon arches, and conveyed to ſome mills, where it falls with great force, and afterwards tumbles down the ſteps of the ancient theatre at Nea- Neapolis, polis. As the greater portion of this place of entertain-

* Authors do not agree whether theſe or the Latomiæ in Neapolis were the priſons in which Dionyſius confined his enemies.

ment was hewn out of the live rock, little detriment has accrued from the lapse of ages; but all that was built upon this foundation has disappeared. What remains forms a most romantic scene, for the white steps are half hid with bushes of various kinds; some tall poplars wave their heads over the ruin, and the waters in full cascades and beautiful masses roll from rock to rock. When the theatre was in its perfect state, the approach to the upper seats was upon a level with Tycha; Acradina lay even with the middle part; and the people from Ortygia and Neapolis ascended to it. Two broad roads, carried deep through the rock in a semicircular form, meeting at the theatre, opened easy communications between the high and the low town. On each side sepulchral caves are hollowed out, and some still retain the bodies deposited within them. On the front wall of the grand circumambulatory passage that divided the seats are two inscriptions; one of them much damaged; the letters ΑΛΚΕΟΦΙΝ are legible, and perhaps are part of the architect's name—The other in distinct characters runs thus, ΒΑΣΙΛΙΣΣΑΣ ΦΙΛΙΣΤΙΔΟΣ, a queen of whom no mention occurs in history, though her medals in silver are frequently met with *. It is a dispute whether

* The author of *Le Voyage en Sicile et dans la Grande Grece* thinks the inscription too perfect for such antiquity, and the characters unlike those used in the *first* ages of Greece. He speaks of the medals having only the initials Β and Φ upon them, whereas the words Βασιλισσας Φιλιστιδος are at full

whether she was queen of Syracuse or of some other country, but Count Gaetani de la Torre, a learned antiquary and director of the college of Syracuse, who first discovered these inscriptions, believes her to have been daughter to Philistus, and wife to the elder Dionysius.

No part of the proscenium now remains, the stone having been used in making fortifications, though many quarries were open all around, where stones might have been procured with almost equal ease; yet the engineers of Charles the Fifth's time made no scruple of calling the Goths and Saracens barbarians!

Drawing now nearer to the island, I entered the large latomiæ on the skirts of Neapolis, a most extraordinary spot. It consists of a very spacious court, or area, round which runs a wall of rock of great height, so artfully cut as to cause the upper part to project very visibly out of the perpendicular line, and thereby defeat every attempt to climb up. Near the summit of the rock is a channel which

full length on a coin actually in my possession.—The tyrant she is supposed to have been married to died only 368 years before Christ, consequently many ages after the arts began to flourish in Greece.—Nor can I conceive what purpose the forging of this inscription could answer.—If the impostor had wished to establish the fame of the unknown queen, he would have thrown out some hints of her parentage and history.

Ex Argento.

1. Cap. Muliebre velatum sinistrosus ad occiput spica.——Victoria in quadrigis monogr. Θ ΒΑΣΙΛΙΣΣΑΣ ΦΙΛΙΣΤΙΔΟΣ.

2. Mul. Cap. velatum—Vict. alat. in biga. MI ΒΑΣΙΛΙΣΣΑΣ ΦΙΛΙΣΤΙΔΟΣ.

conveys

conveys part of the waters of the aqueduct to the city, and can with ease at any time be stopped and turned into the latomiæ. In the centre of the court is a huge insulated stone, and upon it the ruins of a guard-house; vast caverns penetrate into the heart of the rocks, and serve for saltpetre works and roperies; but the excavation that appears most worthy of our notice, and gives name to the whole place, is that in the north-west corner, called the Ear of Dionysius*. It is 18 feet wide and 58 high, and runs into the heart of the hill, in the form of a capital S; the sides are chiseled very smooth, and the roof coved, gradually narrowing almost to as sharp a point as a Gothic arch; along this point runs a groove, or channel, which served, as is supposed, to collect the sounds that rose from the speakers below, and convey them to a pipe in a small double cell above, where they were heard with the greatest distinctness; but this hearing place having been too much opened and altered

* Cluverius allows but one prison of the latomiæ to have ever existed in Syracuse, and places it in Epipolæ.—This cannot be exact, for we read of many prisoners being confined in the quarries previous to that year of Dionysius's reign (the fourth) in which he built the walls of Epipolæ, the stone of which is exactly similar to the rock of the latomiæ under Mongibelle. Before this fortification was made, supposing the quarry to have been opened at an earlier period, the prison must have been in the open country, consequently not a safe place of confinement. His imitator D'Orville finds nothing more particular in the form of the Ear of Dionysius than in any other quarry. It appears by Mirabella's account, that the celebrated painter Michael Angelo Caravaggio first gave it the name of Orecchio, which has since been adopted by the Syracusans.

has lost its virtue, as those who have been let down from the top by a rope have found. There is a recess like a chamber about the middle of the cave, and the bottom of the grotto is rounded off. It is impossible, after an attentive survey of this place to entertain a doubt of its having been constructed intentionally for a prison, and a listening place. Rings are cut out of the angles of the walls, where no doubt the more obnoxious criminals were fastened: The echo at the mouth of the grotto is very loud; the tearing of a piece of paper made as great a noise as a smart blow of a cudgel on a board would have done; a gun gave a report like thunder that vibrated for some seconds, but, farther in, these extraordinary effects ceased. I have read in a Sicilian author of the last century, that an eminent musician composed a canon for two voices, which when sung in this cavern appeared to be performed by four.

S E C T I O N XLIX.

EVERY thing contributed to render my stay at Syracuse agreeable; the apartment allotted to me was convenient and elegant, and made my hours of retirement comfortable. The weather was pleasant, and the persons I met at the bishop's table, sociable and well informed. This prelate, who is of the Syracusan family of Alagona,

Alagona, supports his rank with dignity, and labours with such assiduity in the duties of his episcopal office, that he scarce allows himself to enjoy an hour's leisure in the whole course of the day. His conversation is pleasing, inclining to a serious turn; his companions are of the same cast of mind, and some of them men of considerable learning. The Abate Synesio, his first vicar, is the author of several biographical and theological dissertations.

The diocese of Syracuse produces above forty different sorts of wine; the honey of the hills is as clear as amber, and of a most delicious flavour; vegetables are admirable in their kinds, especially broccoli, which grows to a prodigious size.

Syracuse is the mildest climate for a winter's residence I ever lived in; two or three days of sharp easterly winds excepted, the remainder of the winter months is in reality what we unfortunate inhabitants of the north would call spring. In summer the marshes at the head of the port * exhale vapours that infect the air, and endanger the lives of the inhabitants. The case must have always been the same, for, according to the history of their origin, the oracle of Apollo gave Archias and another adventurer, the choice of two settlements, one of which was to enjoy great

* The Syracæ palus from which the city took its name.



RUINS OF THE TEMPLE OF JUPITER, OPPOSITE TO SYRACUSE.

power, but an unwholesome climate; the other mediocrity of fortune with a healthy situation. Archias chose the former, and Myscellus, who founded Croton, the latter. In these fens the whole Carthaginian army, that came to rescue Syracuse from the Romans, perished of malignant fevers, not one single man escaping.

On the 16th of January, the vines which are kept low and close pruned, had shot out new leaves, the gardens were studded with flowers, and fresh almonds were gathered from the trees. Sugar-canes ready jointed for chewing are sold in the market; salt is to be had almost gratis, for the common people seem to carry off what quantities they please from the heaps, without molestation.

One morning early, I took a boat, and crossed the great port; which is rather more than five miles round*; we steered for the mouth of the river Anapus, two miles from the island. Syracuse has a wonderful effect from this point. The hills of the ancient city appear majestically above a thick wood that covers the shore; to the south of this beautiful sheet of water, rises the bare and abrupt promontory of Massa Oliveri. The isthmus that joins it to the main land is covered with a row of tall trees, and irregular clumps; some single trees and houses are scattered on the slope, upon a smooth lawn that terminates at the water edge. I landed beyond the river, to view the ruins of

* Strabo gives it 80 stadia, equal to ten miles, most probably an error of the transcribers.

the Olympian suburb; little now remains except the mutilated shafts of two fluted columns, standing at a considerable distance from each other: They are nineteen feet six inches round at the bottom, and have only sixteen flutings; they rest upon a plinth of two steps, each eighteen inches high. In the last century, seven columns were still entire; they belonged to the temple of Olympian Jove, which Gelo enriched with the spoils of the Carthaginians, about two thousand five hundred years ago.

We then proceeded up the river, which is very clear and deep. On the south side the ground rises, but to the north, the country is a marshy plain of great extent; the river follows a serpentine course through thickets of * papyrus.

We left the river, and rowed up a stream that falls into it from the south; the thickness of the aquatic plants, that shoot up through the water, impeded our progress, and made the voyage of six miles extremely tedious and

* This is a tall reed, with a brittle triangular stalk of a bright green colour. The root is knotty like those of other reeds; the leaves are long and broad; but as the new ones had not yet acquired their full growth, I could not ascertain their true colour. From the summit of the stem rises a calyx of purple leaves, out of which issues a large round bunch of filaments: These again are split at their extremity, and bear flowrets and small seeds similar to those of the common rushes. From this appearance, the peasants call it *parroca*, a perriwig. They make no use of it, but to deck out bowers for the passage of some religious procession. The roots swim near the surface of the water, when the stalk falls, and strike down numberless fibres that at length reach the ground, and produce fresh stems.

fatiguing,

fatiguing, especially as the flatness of the country, and the trees that shade the banks, prevented my seeing above a few yards at a time on each side. We arrived at last at the head of this river, which rises in a round pond twenty feet in diameter, and twenty-eight deep, as I found upon sounding it in different places. Fazzello, and all those that have written since his time, pretend no length of line can reach the bottom. The water is as clear as crystal, and full of fish; I could discern the bubbling of the spring at the bottom, and also some broken earthen ware.

This pool, now called Pisma, is at a great distance from the hills, and when joined by the stream that rises in the Pismotta, another similar pond, forms a large body of water. In ancient times La Pisma was sacred to the nymph Cyane. Here it was that Pluto struck the earth with his sceptre, and plunged into the infernal regions with Proserpine, the fair prize he had carried off from the flowery fields of Enna; here Cyane attempted to stop him, and, for her officiousness, was by the angry god metamorphosed into a fountain. Plutarch tells another story of Cyane, but not so agreeable a piece of mythology, therefore I shall abide by the poetical origin of this source.

On my return to Syracuse, the bishop procured me a sight of the cameo of St. Lucy, a favour not easily obtained, as it constantly hangs at the breast of her statue, and is locked up with it. This cameo is a very fine large stone of several layers of colour; it is cut down so as to

represent three heads of men; the first, of a yellowish white cast, is an emperor of a serious aspect crowned with laurel, his frizzled hair joining his beard, and his chlamys buttoned on his shoulder. The next is a muddy red, and is intended for an African; a shirt fastened round the throat, a cloak, thick lips, flattened nose, are his distinctive marks; the third, perfectly white, is an elderly face, with lank hair, a scowling eye, and the under lip raised to the nose. By a quibble on the colours, some connoisseurs have named these three heads, Severus, Pescenius Niger, and Albinus; others call them the wise men of the east.

J O U R N E Y
T O
M E S S I N A

S E C T I O N L.

JANUARY 20. Upon leaving Syracuse, I directed my steps due north, measuring back many miles of the road that had led me thither. Augusta was my next station, eighteen miles distant by land, but not above nine by sea; the length of the road is encreased by the necessity of seeking a passage over two rivers, not fordable near their mouths. The country on each side of these streams is exceedingly handsome, and the view of Augusta at the bottom of a valley, through which the water meanders, remarkably picturesque.

This.

This town, built by the emperor Frederic the Second *, near the ruins of the Greek city of Megara, covers a small low peninsula, joined to Sicily on the north side by a long causeway. On each hand are extensive salt-ponds. This projection forms a very fine harbour, opening to a southern exposure, but sheltered by the points of the coast from both wind and swell; it has nine fathom of water in almost every part. A ruinous citadel guards the land gate, and three forts, built on little islands, defend the entrance of the port. The country along the opposite shore is beautifully diversified in its culture.

The order of Malta, possessor of large estates near Lentini, has established magazines at Augusta of salt meat, biscuit and flour for the supply of their ships, that are continually passing between the islands. This gives a little animation to the place, which is scarcely yet recovered from the devastation caused in it by the earthquake of 1693. More than a third of the inhabitants were crushed to death by the falling of their houses; the motion of the earth, or subterraneous vapours set fire to the powder magazine in the citadel, which blew up, and added desolation to desolation; the water forts were split to their

* From the epithets Divus Augustus in a modern inscription over the town gate, it has been imagined that Octavianus Cæsar was the founder, and the Swabian prince the restorer only. Some learned men have brought a medal of Augustus to support the idea; but, I believe, the coin has no connection with this place, and moreover doubt its genuineness.

foundations, and the light-house thrown headlong into the sea *. Since that tremendous day, the town has been rebuilt on a regular plan, with low houses to prevent mischief when ever another shock shall happen.

In the afternoon the whole town was in motion to attend a procession in honour of St. Sebastian, one of the most favourite saints in the Sicilian calendar; he is particularly addressed in behalf of children, afflicted with hernias. The miraculous cure is performed in the following manner: the large stage, or machine, on which his effigy is placed, is crowded with diseased children, and then carried about the streets on the shoulders of the inhabitants, who frequently fight for the honour of bearing the holy burden. The poor infants seemed scared out of their wits at being hoisted so high on a tottering scaffold; this, and the awe which the pomp strikes them with, has, as I was informed by a person of note in the place, considerable efficacy in contracting the affected parts, so as to appear less than usual; but lest the motion and the fright should not act with sufficient power, the surgeon, whose province it is to inspect the children and certify the cure, always gives the

* A gentleman assured me its present population amounted to sixteen thousand persons, though the last enumerations fix it at nine thousand two hundred and five.—I cannot account for this great difference.

Augusta was long a baronial fief, but as it was a place of strength necessary for the defence of the kingdom, it was purchased by the crown in 1567.

little patient a smart blow on the ear before he proceeds to the examination. With these helps, appearances are generally such as are desired for the honour of the saint.

The day was clear, but there blew a cutting easterly wind, which caused me to remark the dress of a gentleman, a principal actor in the pageant; he wore a new unlined lute string, and notwithstanding the Sicilians are affected by the least chilness in the air, he was so well warmed within by devotion, that he seemed insensible of the cold.

Next morning we mounted our horses very early, and rode directly north, over the high promontory of Santa Croce. The land very uneven, but cultivated with spirit. As soon as we reached the north side of the hill, and faced Etna, I perceived that all the stones were lumps of black lava. We descended to the shore of the bay of Catania, at its south-west angle, not far from La Brucca, a small caricatore, and baited at a public house called Agnuni; near it are the foundations, and walls to the height of ten feet, of a very large Gothic church, begun by king Frederic the Second, but left in an imperfect state either on account of his death, or of the infalubrity of the situation. Near this spot antiquaries place the emporium of Leontini, where the superabundance of their produce was shipped for foreign parts.

In the neighbouring fields grows a great deal of rue and lupines. The waste was already dressed in the sweet garb
of

of spring; the myrtle, woodbine, and wild rose were powdered with flowers; among them, an iris, of a bright brimstone colour dashed with purple, was very remarkable.

From hence we travelled many miles close by the sands of the sea, and forded the river of Lentini at the place where it discharges itself into the bay. The weather had been so long dry, that there was no depth of water to create either difficulty or danger.

A spacious plain extends towards the inland country, and also along the shore, full of ponds and marshes, that abound with wild fowl of numberless sorts. We shot several birds out of the flocks of snipes, teal, coots, ducks, &c. that rose on all sides, as we rode along; I never saw a finer field for a keen sportsman than these *foggie*, the Sicilian name for marshy grounds near the sea. They are frequented by many fowlers; the report of guns was almost incessant, and wherever I turned my eyes, columns of smoke were ascending from the fens. My campiere, who had often made one in these shooting parties, informed me, that it was usual to wade, up to the middle, in the swamps, which in winter are full of water, and, on account of the banks, impracticable for boats. The fowler drags after him a couple of lackered baskets for his ammunition and his game; while his dog swims before him, or runs along the ridges of dry ground, to spring the birds, and fetch them when shot. The fishing net is not less amusing or profitable than the gun; but as soon as the sun enters the lion, this

country becomes the house of death; fevers of the most malignant kind seize upon the imprudent or unfortunate wretch that spends a night near them, and few escape with life when attacked by so virulent a disorder.

We emerged from the fens to a noble plain, covered with promising crops of corn, but without a single inclosure or even tree. No country seems better calculated for pigeons, and indeed none has such incredible flights of them: From their abundance, they are considered as nuisances, and therefore deemed public property. My soldier shot at them whenever they flew within reach; nay he even stopped his horse opposite a cottage, and fired at a cluster of them basking on the thatch; the muleteer went to the place and picked up the slain, while the cottagers stood at the door as unconcerned as if we had shot a parcel of sparrows on a hedge. My servants feasted several days on this game, but enjoyed much more the eating of a magpie I shot for them.

The dwelling houses of the peasants are small conical huts, covered with straw, and, I believe, unoccupied during part of the year. Through this boundless plain flow the waters of the Giarretta, one of the largest rivers in the island, deep and muddy. We passed it in a ferry, in Sicilian Giarretta, from whence the river takes its modern name, its ancient one was Simæthus.

We traversed a large tract of arable ground, the soil a sandy loam, then turned again to the shore, and soon af-

ter reached the horrid bed of lava which gushed out of the side of Etna in 1669, overwhelmed the greatest part of Catania, filled up its port, and quenched itself at last in the depths of the sea. It is still black as a coal, and hard as iron, without the least symptom of any vegetable seed or root being likely to take hold of its barren surface. We entered Catania by a triumphal arch of alternate courses of lava and freestone.

S E C T I O N L I.

THE prince of Biscari, to whom I was recommended, and to whose many amiable qualities every traveller, that has frequented his house, must bear honourable testimony, took upon him the task of being my antiquary. If my feeble voice can contribute any thing towards extending his well-deserved reputation of benevolence, hospitality, and antiquarian zeal, I shall not be backward in corroborating the evidence of preceding writers; for I cannot think any of their praises extravagant, when I consider how noble and patriotic the motives are, that have induced him to collect and preserve the scattered memorials of his country's ancient splendor.—How much superior he and his family shew themselves to the prejudices of his fellow citizens; how well versed he is in many branches of learning, and with what goodnature, ease, and frankness,

he treats the persons that come recommended to his notice. His collection is very rich and extensive, especially in Etruscan vases, lamps, and antiquities of terra cotta. Every year brings new treasures to this department from the ruins of Camarina in the Val di Noto, where the prince employs several hands in digging. One of the most remarkable lamps is moulded into the form of a camel, with an amphora on each side fixed in a cradle.—The water-carriers at Palermo use a similar contrivance to this day, for conveying water upon asses. Among his busts and statues some are conspicuous on account of the perfection of their sculpture; others, from the celebrity of the persons they represent. His favourite piece of statuary is the torso of a god, of heroic size, touched in a most masterly style; the sides and back are worked up with wonderful truth and knowledge.—The flowing contour and swelling of the muscles are admirable both to the sight and touch. The lavas and other productions of Etna compose a large division of the cabinet, and a curious assortment of Sicilian fossils and minerals fill up another. He informed me that no iron ore had yet been discovered in the island. The collection of cameos and intaglios, and the suite of Sicilian and Roman coins are very valuable.

I was introduced by him to the canon Joseph Recupero, a merry philosopher, in spite of a lethargic disposition, which frequently overpowers him, and will probably soon prove of fatal consequence. He has studied the phenomena

mena and natural history of Etna with great perseverance, and acquired a profound knowledge of its operations and productions; he has published some dissertations on the subject, abounding with sagacious observations; and was then actually employed in revising and preparing for the press a voluminous history of the mountain; but his friends were apprehensive he would not live long enough to complete it *. The canon has renounced all thoughts of ecclesiastical preferment, of which he told me the door had been effectually shut against him on account of his bold liberal way of thinking and speaking; but it was a matter he was become quite indifferent to, as he should spend the few days he had to live in happy retirement, at a small country house near town, where his good friend and patron the prince of Biscari had provided for all his wants. He has a set of features very like those of Socrates, whose good nature and placid philosophy he seems to have inherited.

The prince conducted me to the remains of the ancient city, which, on account of the numerous torrents of lava that have flowed out of Mount Etna for these last thousand years, and taken their destructive course this way, is now to be sought for in dark caverns, many feet below the present surface of the earth.

Were it not for St. Agatha and Etna, the annals of Catania would be barren and uninteresting; but the volcano,

* He died a few months after I left Sicily.

by its continual threats, and frequently by its ravages, has provided the Catanian historians with ample materials for dissertation; while the saint, by the repelling virtues of her veil, furnishes them with such causes of triumph as reconciles them to the task of describing the horrible phenomena of the mountain. I have perused several volumes of its history, without finding above a page of events worth selecting, except those that relate to the conflagrations.

Catania was founded by the Chalcidians soon after the settlement of Syracuse, and enjoyed great tranquillity till Hiero the First expelled the whole body of citizens, and, after replenishing the town with a new stock of inhabitants, gave it the name of Etna; immediately after his decease, it regained its ancient name, and its citizens returned to their abodes. Catania fell into the hands of the Romans, among their earliest acquisitions in Sicily, and became the residence of a prætor. To make it worthy of such an honour, it was adorned with sumptuous buildings of all kinds, and every convenience was procured to supply the natural and artificial wants of life. It was destroyed by Pompey's son, but restored with superior magnificence by Augustus. The reign of Decius is famous in the history of this city, for the martyrdom of its patroness St. Agatha. On every emergency her intercession is implored.—She is piously believed to have preserved Catania from being overwhelmed by torrents of lava, or shaken to pieces by earthquakes; yet its ancient edifices are covered by repeated
streams

streams of volcanic matter; and almost every house, even her own church, has been thrown to the ground. In the reign of William the Good, twenty thousand Catanians, with their pastor at their head, were destroyed before the sacred veil could be properly placed to check the flames. In the last century the eruptions and earthquakes raged with redoubled violence, and Catania was twice demolished.

The prince has been at infinite pains, and spent a large sum of money, in working down to the ancient town. We descended into baths, sepulchres, an amphitheatre, and a theatre, all very much injured by the various catastrophes that have befallen them. They were erected upon old beds of lava, and even built with square pieces of the same substance, which in no instance appears to have been fused by the contact of new lavas: The sciarra, or stones of cold lava, have constantly proved as strong a barrier against the flowing torrent of fire, as any other stone could have been, though some authors were of opinion, that the hot matter would melt the old mass, and incorporate with it.

This city has been frequently defended from the burning streams by the solid mass of its own ramparts, and by the air compressed between them and the lava; this appears by the torrent having stopt within a small distance of the walls, and taken another direction. But when the walls were broken, or low, the lava collected itself till it rose to a great height, and then poured over in a curve.

A similar

A similar instance is seen at the Torre del Greco near Naples, where the stream of liquid fire from Vesuvius divided itself into two branches, and left a church untouched in the middle. There is a well at the foot of the old walls of Catania, where the lava, after running along the parapet, and then falling forwards, has produced a very complete lofty arch over the spring.

We next visited the Benedictine convent of St. Nicholas, one of the largest I ever saw, belonging either to that, or any other religious order. Every part has been rebuilt since the earthquake of 1693. The principal front is overcharged with ornaments, and nothing in architecture can have a more disagreeable effect than the decorations of the windows; the cloysters are not quite compleat; the dormitories and galleries are so long that the perspective view of them seems absolutely to terminate in a point of light. The church is a noble fabrick, notwithstanding several blameable things in the design; the isles are too wide for the nave, and the altars are in a very vicious taste; the architect seems in them to have studied to deviate as much as possible from the real line of beauty. This is accounted the largest church in Sicily, though neither a porch nor cupola has been erected, from a doubt of the solidity of the foundations, which are no other than the bed of lava that ran out of Etna in 1669, and is supposed to be full of cavities. The organ is much esteemed by connoisseurs in musical instruments. One wing of the
the

monastery is appropriated to a considerable museum of antiquity and natural history. It is easy to form a cabinet of Greek medals at Catania; for the demands of the Biscari collection have long drawn thither all persons that had any to dispose of, and that suite being nearly perfected, many coins must now be rejected, and left for other dilettanti. I purchased several of great rarity, and in excellent preservation.

S E C-

* Numi Catanensium.

Ex Argento.

1. Cap. imb. diad. KATANAI—Quadriga vict. superv. cor. imp.
2. Jovis cap. quercea cor. red.—Sceptrum alat. KATANAIΩN.
3. Cap. Apoll. KATANAION—Biga.
4. Cap. vir imb.—Cap. fenile barbatum.
5. Cap. Apoll. pleno vultu capill. horridis KATANAIΩN—Fig. in quadr. victoria supervol. piscis KATANAIΩN.
6. Cap. Jovis cornut. KATANAIΩN—Fig. mulieb. d. lances s cornucop. in laurea mon.
7. Cap. mul. coron. querc. oron. XOIKEΩN AΠOΛΛΩN—Fig. in quadrig. vict. superv. Squilla KATANAIΩN.
8. Cap. laur. imb HPAKAEIAN—Id. typus.
9. Cap. imb. diad. piscis squilla AMENAOΣ—Fig. in quadrig. vict. superv. KATANAIΩN.

Ex Ære.

1. Anepias cum patre KATANAION—Amphinomus cum matre.
2. Fig. nud. rad. d. cornua. s. urceolum ten.—Noctua infid. duob. pileis Dioscur. KATANAION.
3. Cap. Jovis corn. KATANAION—Fig. mul. stans d. lances. s. cornucop. 3 anagr.
4. Cap. imb.—Mulier stans KATANAION.
5. Cap. Bacchi barb.—Racemus KATANAION.

VOL. II.

A A A

6. Cap.

SECTION LII.

CATANIA is reviving with great splendour, and, when all the houses now building are finished, will be a very handsome city. It has already much more the features of a metropolis and royal residence than Palermo; the principal streets are wide, straight, and well paved with lava. An obelisk of red granite, placed on the back of an antique elephant of touchstone stands in the centre of the great square, which is formed by the town-hall, seminary, and cathedral. The cathedral erected by the Abbot Angerius in the year 1094, was endowed by earl Roger with the

6. Cap. Jani—Mulier stans d. Flabellum s. trid. KATANAIΩN.
7. Cap. Bacchi imb.—ΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΟ—Anapias et Amphinomus KATANAIΩN.
8. Cap. Apoll. KATAN—Mulier in curru a duob tygr. duct. s. thyrsifera.
9. Cap. folis pleno vultu—Fig. nud. in big. superv. vict.
10. Capita jug. barb. KA—Fig. vir. stans columnæ inn.
11. Capita Dioseur. Jugata—Fig. vir. st. col. innix.
12. Cap. Jugat. imb. laur.—2 spicæ KATANAIΩN.
13. Cap. Apoll. stell.—Mul. grad. d. fol. KATANAIΩN.
14. Cap. mul.—Mulier grad. KATANAIΩN II.
15. Cap. mul.—TANA—Ramus T.
16. Cap. Apoll.—Vict. stans d. spic. s. ramum III TANAΙΩN.
17. Cap. mul. spic. red. EIII—Pegasus galea. KATANAIΩN.
18. Cap. Apoll.—Tripus KATANAIΩN.

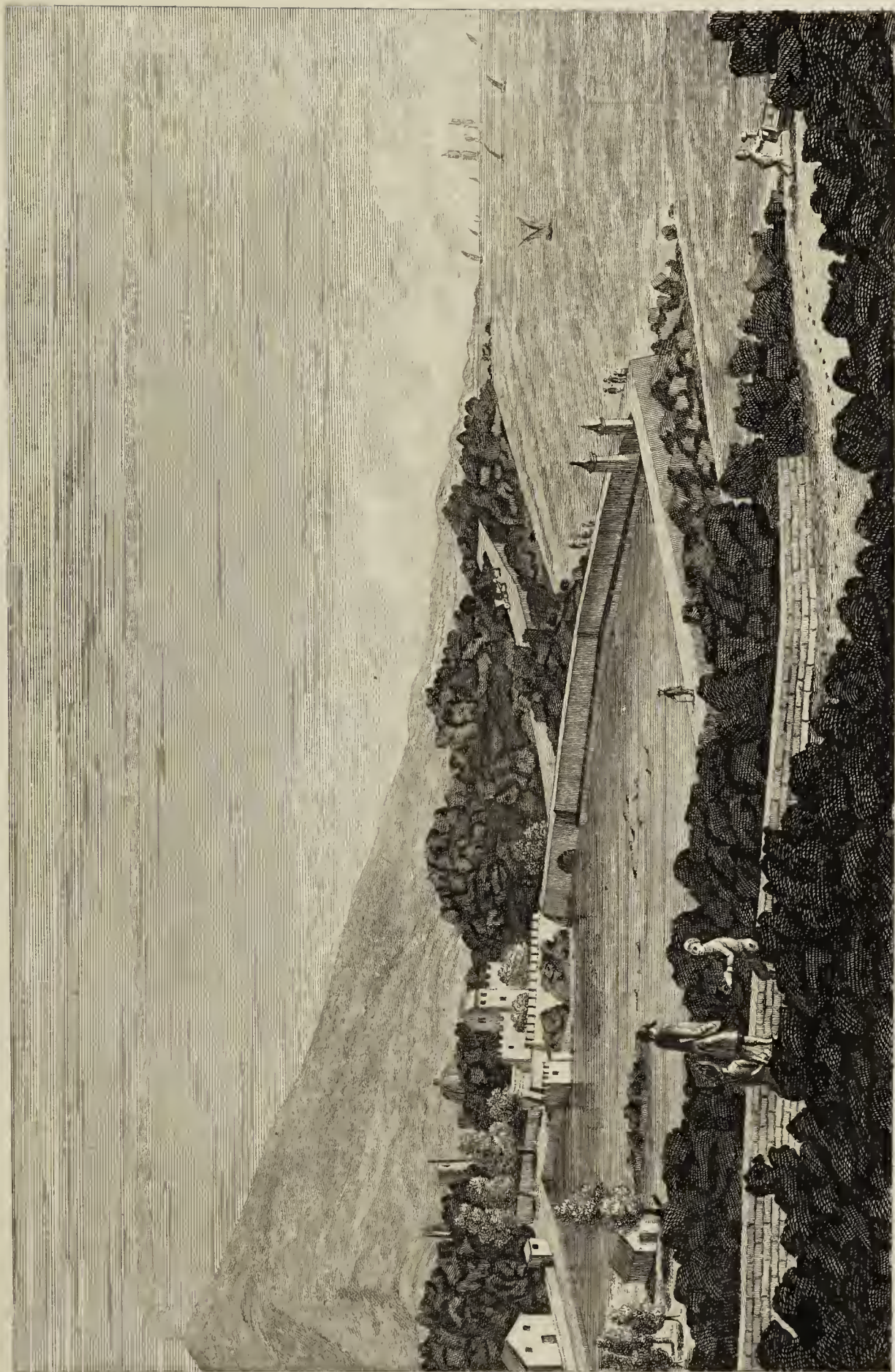
territories

territories of Catania and Etna, for the small acknowledgment of a glass of wine and a loaf of bread offered once a year. It has suffered so much by earthquakes, that little of the original structure remains, and the modern parts have hardly any thing, except their materials, to recommend them. The other religious edifices of the city are profusely ornamented, but in a bad taste. The spirit of building seems to have seized upon this people, and the prince of Biscari's example adds fresh vigour : It were natural to suppose men would be backward in erecting new habitations, especially with any degree of luxury, on ground so often shaken to its centre, and so often buried under the ashes of a volcano ; but such is their attachment to their native soil, and their contempt of dangers they are habituated to, that they rebuild their houses on the warm cinders of Vesuvius, the quaking plains of Calabria, and the black mountains of Sciarra at Catania ; it is however surprising to see such embellishments lavished in so dangerous a situation. There is a great deal of activity in the disposition of this people ; they know by tradition that their ancestors carried on a flourishing commerce, and that, before the fiery river filled it up, they had a spacious convenient harbour, where they now have scarce a creek for a felucca ; they therefore wish to restore those advantages to Catania, and have often applied to government for assistance towards forming a mole and port, an undertaking their strength alone is unequal to ; But whether the refusal originates in the deficiencies of the

public treasury, or the jealousy of other cities, all their projects have ended in fruitless applications.

The number of inhabitants dwelling in Catania amounts to thirty thousand; the Catanians make it double — A considerable portion of this number appertains to the university, the only one in the island, and the nursery of all the lawyers.

I spent many hours in contemplating the greatest curiosity in Catania; for such I esteem the villa Sciarra, belonging to the prince of Biscari. Some years ago he inclosed a large tract of the lava, which issued from Etna in 1669, and, after surrounding the old fortress where the Arragonian kings were wont to reside, ended its destructive course in the abysses of the sea. Upon this black impenetrable surface the prince laid the plan of a garden, built houses, carried an excellent coach road round, planted trees in earth brought thither from other places and, what seems almost incomprehensible, formed two large ponds of fresh water, supplied by springs that ouze through the lava. I do not know whether these waters are connected with the very singular brook called Giudicello, the Amenenus of the ancients. It passes through Catania, but has been known to cease flowing, at least above ground, for several years, and then suddenly burst out, and continue a constant stream for a long space of time; this intermission proves that its existence depends entirely upon the difference of vent given to the mass of waters
that



H. Smith del.

P. Hurdell sculp.

Villa of the PRINCE of BISCARI, built on the Lava of 1669.

that occupy part of the cavities in the bowels of Etna. If these reservoirs have, by any aqueous eruptions, or other means unknown to us, fallen to so low a level as no longer to reach the height at which they were wont to discharge their overplus by the Giudicello, this stream must necessarily fail till a fresh accumulation of melted snow causes a regular overflow of these subterraneous lakes.

The pools of the villa are stocked with fish and waterfowl, and are preserved from the fury of the neighbouring sea by a strong pier, the only separation between the salt and fresh water; the sea is extremely tempestuous when the Scirocco or Levante winds blow, and then its waves dash over the mole, and give the waters a brackish taint, but it does not seem to affect the fish. The creator of this most extraordinary improvement visits it every day, as the source of health and innocent recreation, and every day some new idea rises in his mind, which he is eager to realize for its embellishment.

My evenings were very agreeably spent in a small party at the prince's house, where a variety of improving conversation beguiled the hours. Some nights we adjourned to an opera in the prince's theatre, which he lends to the city, till the public one be finished. The female part of the audience appeared to me to have clearer complexions than is usual in Sicily; it may perhaps arise from the prevalence of inoculation in this city, the first that ventured the experiment; which has now been practised many
years

years with success; Calatagerone was the second town that adopted the method. It is strange that no accounts of the long experienced good effects of inoculation should yet have reached the neighbouring coasts of Italy, where they look upon it with superstitious horror.

S E C T I O N LIII.

ON the 27th of January, I took my leave of this charming family; the canon Recupero dissuaded me from attempting to reach the top of Etna, for he was certain that the snow would render it impracticable; he observed, that I should enjoy full as fine a prospect half way up the mountain as from the summit, by moving in a horizontal direction and alternately taking in views towards different points of the compass; that the land would be equally seen in its whole extent, and all that I should lose would be a greater command of the sea, and that I might form a tolerable idea of the crater of Etna from that of Vesuvius, with which I was well acquainted. I paid a just deference to his opinion, and left Catania a little before day-break. The rays of the rising sun struck the top of the mountain seven minutes and thirty seconds, before they shone on Catania.

The immediate environs of the town are extremely pleasant, but notwithstanding the lively appearance of the fruit-

fruit-trees in blossom, which made the country look as if it were powdered; the number and extent of the beds of lava are so great, that I soon found the landscape excessively gloomy and disagreeable. I rode through many small hamlets, and continued in a very gradual ascent to a place called Tre-Castagne, in the region of the Montagnuole, from which formidable rivers of flaming matter have issued; as there is seldom, if ever, more than one eruption from each, for they are only accidental vents in the flanks of the mountain, these hillocks are soon covered with wood, and often planted with vines. Many of the sciarras we traversed were however still in their frightful primitive state, exactly the same in appearance as when they first began to cool; those of 1763, were quite fresh. The matter that issues from Etna, is of a much harder nature than the common lavas of Vesuvius, takes more time to grow cold, and is more tardy in admitting vegetation to gain a footing upon it; the torrent of 1669 was eight years before its heat ceased to be perceptible, and at this hour has not a blade of grass or fibre of moss on its whole surface, whereas the lava that streamed down to Torre del Greco, not twenty years ago, is covered in many places with lichen.

We now began to leave the cultivated, and to enter into the woody region; at first straggling trees and patches of shrubs marked the skirts of a forest, and tillage land grew gradually more and more scarce; soon after large wastes
I opened.

opened on each side with scattered thickets and here and there a piece of vineyard, which some industrious peasant has ventured to plant higher up than the rest. I found no difference of heat or cold in this journey, but it may be very sensible in summer; I had long before spoilt my thermometer and barometer in our adventurous passage of the Platani, and could find none to purchase in any of the towns I passed through. The timber is common oak and chestnut, but in these parts I saw no handsome trees, for the country people draw their supply of fuel from hence for all the villages and cottages below, and lop the trees in a most slovenly manner.

The coagulated torrents we crossed, and the roughness of the road, now became exceedingly fatiguing, and obliged me to halt and take some refreshment; I fixed upon a bare knoll for that purpose, on the south-east side of the mountain, about eighteen miles above Catania. It is not easy to draw a line between the different regions, for the fertile country at the foot is interspersed with waste land and wood, and for some time after I had ascended above the line of habitation, I found vineyards planted in the open parts of the forest, but no corn any where. The summit of Etna exhibited a very different shape from that which it had worn since I first saw it from Niscemi; it was no longer the regular tapering cone, but an immense ridge almost level, having a round eminence at each extremity, and about the middle a forked hill rising higher than the rest, and

and surrounding the crater from which the smoke ascends; this part alone was of a dark colour, one sheet of snow covered all the remainder; at the foot of this stupendous ridge lie gloomy vallies of prodigious depth, separated from each other by snowy mountains, before which most beautiful woods form a mighty girdle round the frozen region; the bold sweeps and the variety of risings and falls in this woody view, brought to my mind some romantic scenes in old English parks, though the scale upon which the finest woodlands in England are laid out, is a mere point when compared with the plan of nature in these gigantic forests. If my eye was checked in its scope on this side, though by objects of such magnitude, it was at liberty to range unconfined on the southern and eastern aspect; there it had a world to wander over. The vale of Noto and great part of that of Demona, were open to my view, with a large tract of Calabria and an immense expanse of sea. Without the assistance of my glass, I traced the route I had pursued in crossing from the coast of Girgenti to Catania, which rose beautifully at my feet with all its cupolas and roofs now finely illuminated by the sun; not a cloud was to be seen throughout the vault of Heaven, and every object was rendered by the clearness of the medium apparently nearer and most surprisingly distinct. I could follow the course of many broad streams of lava, from their source in the tumulus or montagnuola where the opening was made in the mountain's side, to the end of their career in the

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sea,

sea, or sooner in the plains round Catania. That of 1669, draws a most tremendous dusky line through the cultivated country; others of a greyer cast mark an eruption of a remoter date, and some almost obliterated by the progress of vegetation, but still faintly differing in colour from the fields, claim an origin removed perhaps beyond the reach of history. From Homer's silence with regard to the phenomena of Etna, it is to be presumed that the volcano had been many ages in a state of inactivity, and that no tradition of its burning remained among the inhabitants at the time he composed his *Odyssæy*; perhaps it never had emitted flames since the country was peopled.

The first eruption taken notice of by ancient, but by no means cotemporary authors, happened before the Greeks landed on the island, and is supposed to have scared the Sicani from the east part of Sicily. M. de Buffon asserts Etna to be a primitive mountain; that is, a protuberance existing as such from the creation; in which assertion he has little assistance from analogy, probability, or experience to support him: but I leave to abler pens the task of proving Etna to be, like other insulated mountains, the gradual production of fiery operations. He supposes the mountain to have vomited flames soon after the creation, but on the subsiding of the waters which covered the face of the earth, to have ceased burning, because a sufficient quantity of moisture became wanting to produce an effervescence with its mineral contents. After a long lapse of

3

ages,

ages, the Streights of Gibraltar were burst open, and the ocean mixed with the Mediterranean sea; while by a similar event the Bosphorus of Thrace was broken, and the waters of the great lakes let into the Archipelago: Water being thus again brought to the foot of Etna, the mountain began to send forth flames anew, which at different intervals, and with various degrees of force, it has continued to do down to the present time; this system is ingenious, and for ought we can discover in such a labyrinth of suppositions may be the truth; but I cannot agree to his hypothesis, that the sea of Sicily has sunk of late years, and therefore, that Etna has abated much of its vigor. I never could discover any traces of this retreat of the salt waters, but many of their encroachments; and I apprehend he will find it difficult to persuade the Catanians that the mountain has lost any of its powers, as long as they behold the lavas of 1669, and those of many subsequent, though less destructive conflagrations.

Pindar is the oldest writer extant who speaks of Etna as a volcano. The first recorded eruption was in the time of Pythagoras; Plato was invited by the younger Dionysius to examine the state of the mountain after the sixth.

It threw up flames and lava near an hundred times between that period and the battle of Pharsalia; it was particularly furious while Sextus Pompeius was adding the horrors of war to its devastations. Charlemagne happened to be at Catania during one of the eruptions, and

from his reign the chronicles mention fifteen down to that of the year 1669, the most horrible of them all. The lava burst forth at a place called Ricini, and ran in a stream fifty feet deep, and four miles broad, destroying all before it; it overwhelmed great part of Catania, and drove back the sea a considerable way from the shore. The progress of this Stygian river was at first at the rate of seven miles in one day, but afterwards it took four days to travel fifteen: The crater fell in, and its aperture was found to be increased from three to five miles in circumference.* Since that epocha, there have been seven eruptions, but none of very dreadful consequences.

I left the horses at the place of halting, and under the guidance of a peasant walked into the woods in search of

* Etna has never been measured with geometrical accuracy; the following measures are given by different authors:

Height above the surface of the sea, 10,036 feet.

180 miles circumference at the base.—Faujas de S. Fon in his *Volcans du Vivarais*.

Height 12000 feet.—Brydone. *Tour to Sicily*.

Height 2500 toises.—La Platrière, said as from *Récupero*.

Height 1950 toises.—Diameter 30 miles.—Mentelle *Geogr. comp.*

Others make its height only 2000 toises, and its superficies 300 square miles.

It is divided into three circles or zones; the largest and lowest of which is called *Piemontese*, and occupies a breadth of eighteen miles of rich cultivation: The second (*Nemorosa*,) ascends six miles above it; the lower part of the third (*Netta* or *Scoperta*,) is covered with snow in winter only, but perpetual snows lie on the upper half of this sterile region, which measures two leagues in breadth, and terminates in the summit of the mountain.

plants

plants and fossil curiosities, but met with no success, for the best specimens of volcanical substances lie more towards the south, and the season was not far enough advanced for vegetable rarities; besides, the trees of these forests grow too close together to suffer shrubs or flowers to thrive under them. While I was wandering through these awful shades, the servants were employed in seeking a proper place for our night's lodgings, and about an hour before sunset met me at an appointed rendezvous; they conducted me to a kind of farm-house about a mile lower down the mountain; the owners gave us all the assistance in their power towards our arrangement, and after supper entertained us with many wonderful stories about the devils and hobgoblins that inhabit the caves of Etna. My soldier and muleteers were not behind hand in strange tales, and the Neapolitan with his Vesuvius made no small impression upon the minds of his audience. As every narrator endeavoured to render his story more frightful and diabolical than the preceding one, I could perceive that the whole circle was worked up to such a ridiculous pitch of dismay, that a sudden rap at the door would have frightened them out of their wits. The excessive irritability of nerves in the Sicilians, heightened by prejudices and superstitions, that pervade the whole system of what is called education among them, gives them a facility of affection either for joy, grief, hope, or fear, beyond any nation I ever had an opportunity of knowing. Boccone devotes one of his treatises

tises on natural history to the *scanto*, or *spavento*, that is, a sudden impression of horror upon the mind and body. The wild ideas the vulgar part of the inhabitants have imbibed on this head are almost incredible, and the dread they have of a sudden shock is no less surprising. There is scarce a symptom, disorder, or accident they do not think may befall the human frame in consequence of the *scanto*. They are persuaded that a man who has been frightened only by a dog, a viper, scorpion, or any other creature, which he has an antipathy to, will soon be seized with the same pains he would really feel, had he been torn with their teeth or wounded with their venomous sting, and that nothing can remove these nervous imaginary pangs but a strong dose of *dilena*, a species of cantharides found in Sicily.

S E C T I O N LIV.

THE first gleam of light through the windows roused us all; the morning was clear, and gave assurances of so fine a day, that I was determined to penetrate into the woods, and climb as high as the snow would allow me. The peasant, who had accompanied me the preceding day, offered his services, but warned me not to expect any great progress on that side of the mountain, as the vallies were deep, and the precipices tremendous. Having again
agreed

agreed upon a place of meeting with the servants, and enjoined them to keep a great fire burning, that we might be guided by the smoke, I set out for the heart of the forest; We travelled two hours through groves of trees of surprising size and height, the soil beneath a shivery stone covered with moss, and here and there a bare ledge of lava appearing above ground. In the open places the grass was very fine and short; it is remarkable for fattening sheep, but often surfeits them with its superabundance of rich juices; the remedy for this disorder is to draw blood from the animal's ear. The pastures of Etna are divided into nine districts, that the different proprietors of flocks may not interfere with each other.

Near the entrance of the wood, chestnut and oak trees are intermixed, afterwards oak alone is to be seen; some of them of a prodigious size; the largest I measured was twenty-eight feet in circumference. As we approached the inner verge of the woody region, the oaks diminished in bulk and number, and were succeeded by the tæda pine, but I saw none among these of any large dimensions, or proper for naval purposes. The guide told me it was customary to tap them, and that they yielded a very fine turpentine of special efficacy in healing wounds. He said there was a variety of wild animals and birds upon the mountain, but not so many as there were when people were less expert at the use of the gun. He reckoned many sorts of both, among which I recollect wild boars, badgers, wild

wild goats, deer, martens, hares, rabbits, partridges, eagles and falcons; he had never heard of any bears being seen there, and I found he did not know the difference between the stag and the fallow deer *.

We now began to find snow among the fallen leaves, and the wood thinner; the trees more stunted, mossy, and bare of boughs; the stones looser, and the ground less over-grown with vegetable productions. Having with great fatigue crossed a wide hollow, and climbed up an acclivity between two rocky cliffs, with a few trees to enliven the dreary scene, we arrived at the summit of a chain of hills; from hence we looked down upon a deep and frightful valley; its surface was compleatly smoothed over with snow, which appeared to be deep and dangerous. My guide stopped short, and pronounced all farther progress impracticable, as certain rocks he was acquainted with were hidden beneath the snow. I therefore gave up all thoughts of proceeding, and contented myself with a distant survey of the awful scenes I had not the power of visiting. On my return through the woods, I sometimes caught a glimpse of the pillar of smoke that rose from the place of rendezvous, and steered my course accordingly.

* I have since been informed that neither bears nor stags exist on the island.

Anaxilas, tyrant of Reggium, brought hares into Sicily, and as the people of Messina were the first he favoured with the breed, they commemorated the present by representing that animal upon their coins.

I now



Castagno di Porto Sanelli on Mount Etna, seen from the East.

Summit of the Volcano.

I now descended the mountain to the fields that surround the celebrated chestnut tree, called from its astonishing size *Castagno di cento cavalli*, as supposing it capable of sheltering an hundred horse under the canopy of its boughs. It stands single on a gentle rising, the ground round it is an open pasture bounded by woods and vineyards; the height of it has been much diminished of late years by the tops of the branches being lopped to increase its fruitfulness; the boughs yet meet at a very considerable elevation from the ground. When I first saw this tree, I concluded myself imposed upon by the descriptions of preceding travellers; and was convinced that the original tree had been cut down, and the present group formed by new shoots sprung out of the old root; but upon a closer examination I changed my opinion. This wonderful production of the vegetable kingdom consists of a trunk, now split to the surface of the earth, but as I found by digging all round, united in one body at a very small depth below; of this trunk five divisions are formed, each of which sends forth enormous branches. The exterior surface of these divisions are covered with bark, none has yet grown on their inside, and they all turn towards a common center. The interstices are of different extents; one is wide enough for two coaches to drive abreast.—In the middle is a hut covered with tiles, where the fruit of the tree is deposited. Our whole caravan, men and animals, were at our ease in this extraordinary inclosure; and, while the

horses eat their oats, we spread our cloaks on the ground, and dined in two sets, without interfering with each other. This will not appear incredible; when I assure my readers, that, after three measurements taken with the utmost nicety and attention, I found the circumference of this mighty tree to be, at one inch above the ground, one hundred and ninety-six English feet on the outside. As the line was drawn straight across the vacancies, the real size of the circle ought to be computed still higher *.

Within sight of this chestnut tree, which formerly belonged to St. Agatha, but has lately been declared the property of the crown, grow several trees of the same species, perhaps still more worthy of admiration, as their trunk is yet entire. I took the dimensions of the largest at the height of three feet; it is fifty-seven feet round, with a straight bole free from crack or flaw, and clear of branches to the height of fifteen feet; I never beheld so beautiful and flourishing a tree. After these giants of vegetation all other trees appeared pigmies, and I passed them unnoticed. The decline of the day now warned me of the necessity of quitting Etna and continuing my journey.

We travelled down the eastern declivity of the mountain,

* Reidesel says it measured 204 palms (about 176 feet). He probably held his measuring line farther from the ground than I did. Mentelle gives it 149 French feet, or near 160 English. The author of *Voyages en differens Pays de l'Europe*, who perhaps took his intelligence from Reidesel, and by mistake put feet for palms, gives it 204 feet circumference.

through a tract of well wooded, and well cultivated hills. The way was no other than the bed of a torrent, rough and stony; I was so accustomed to bad roads, and so confident of the steady foot of my mule, that I felt no apprehensions from this rapid descent; this animal did not make the least false step, or by any sudden motion once call off my attention from the enchanting scenes around me; my heart was dilated with pleasure as I beheld the gay clothing with which the rosy-coloured blossoms covered the yet leafless almond trees, and the golden glow with which the setting sun tinged every object. The first village we arrived at is placed on the brink of an immense bed of stones, which is at present dry, but bears the marks of a mighty stream having heretofore taken its course this way. The great breadth of this channel surprised me, for I saw no reason from its depth to think it a natural reservoir, or passage for the melted snow in the spring, which could not be supposed to form so great a body of water, as was necessary to fill it. The curate of the village informed me, that it was occasioned by a most astonishing volume of hot water, which in the year 1753 had forced its way through the sides of the mountain, about two hundred yards above, rushing down to the sea with incredible velocity and irresistible violence, bearing away all houses, trees, and other obstacles to its furious course, and leaving nothing but burnt stones and rubbish, where it had found fine orchards and a rich vegetative soil.

At the close of day, we reached an inn at Li Giarri, a large village not far from the sea side.

SECTION LV.

I CONTINUED my route due north through a plain, where the soil is a mixture of sandy mold and black ashes, and greatly inferior in goodness to the land that lies on the slope of the mountain. This morning's ride between Etna and the sea was enchanting. The Fiume freddo crosses the road, a clear rapid stream, cold as ice; its bottom covered with grass, and abounding in fish.

We soon after passed the tower of Schifo,* which stands upon the site of the ancient city of Naxos, the first colony the Greeks settled in the island. Dionysius the elder destroyed the town, but permitted the inhabitants that had survived the calamity to make a new establishment on the neighbouring point of Mount Taurus.

Numi Naxiorum.

Ex Argento.

1. Cap. barbatum hederâ coronat.—Silenus humi fed. d. vas. NAXION.
 2. Cap. barb. pampinis coron.—Racemus. NAXI.
 3. Cap. mulieb. laur. folum. NAΞION—Silenus humi fed. d. diotam.
- s. thyrsus. Ara cum statua. folium.

Ex Ære.

1. Cap. barb. & orn. pamp—Diotia NAΞION.
2. Cap. imb. hed coron.—Diotia NAΞI thyrsus.

It

It is remarkable that the foundations of this old town were laid upon a bed of lava, which issuing out of the north-east side of Etna, ran a great way into the sea, and formed a long narrow peninsula. How great must be the space of time elapsed between the æra of that eruption and the present age, since Naxos was founded seven hundred years before the birth of Christ; and the congealed torrent must have lost much of its forbidding appearance before that time, or else a set of strangers would never have thought of erecting their habitations upon it. It is therefore reasonable to suppose that whole ages had intervened, and consequently, that this is the oldest known bed of volcanical matter on the surface of the earth, though many have been cut through in digging wells, that may be of a prior date, covered by successive layers of decomposed vegetables and new torrents of sciarra. The mass of lava, on which Naxos stood, has not been overwhelmed in the same manner, because Etna for a long course of ages has ceased to direct its fiery streams towards the country that lies on the northern and eastern aspects.

This point forms, with the extremity of Mount Taurus, a most beautiful bay, into which the river Cantara empties itself: It flows at the utmost skirt of Etna, and of volcanic soil; for directly on its northern bank a chain of lofty broken mountains, composed of marble and various sorts of calcareous stones, rise as a barrier against the encroachments of ignited substances.

The

The ascent to Taormina is extremely steep and rugged. It is a poor town built on a narrow level above a precipice, and overhung by immense masses of rock, where the village of Mola stands, in one of the boldest situations imaginable. Taormina contains three thousand inhabitants.

The ancient Tauromenium was much more extensive than the present town, and comprehended within its walls the brow of the promontory of St. Andrew, where a theatre was placed between two high rocks; commanding a full view both of Etna and of the plains. A considerable portion of this building has escaped the ravages of time, and affords the antiquary as well as the architect a rare opportunity of examining that division of a theatre, on which the actors stood; a part wanting in almost all other ruined theatres. The arcades are all composed of brick, the rest of the walls of pebbles, and covered with marble casings; none of the seats exist in perfect preservation, though many rows of them were cut out of the live rock; time has consumed even the rock. The whole range of the vomitoria and galleries that encircled the seats is yet standing as high from the ground as the bottom of the second order; the proscenium which formed the chord of the arch is almost entire; it is a thick wall, with a large opening in the center, and three niches; a small door, and a fourth niche on each side; between each of these apertures, or recesses, are marks in the wall, where columns were placed. The magistrates of Taormina, who
caused

caused some reparations to be made, fixed a few fragments of shafts before this screen, upon a narrow terrace that supported the floor of the stage. While the columns were entire in their proper places, the niches filled with statues, and the marble casing was yet upon the brick wall, there scarce remained space enough for even one person to walk along, much less for a company of actors to perform a drama; yet, some observers have imagined that this small extent constituted the whole of the stage. It appears perfectly clear to me that this screen was a permanent decoration of architecture, which served on all occasions as scenery, and that the place where the comedians exhibited their performances, was a wooden stage sloping forwards to a transversal wall, now almost ruined to the ground, but still sufficient to mark its destination: Under the intermediate space were vaults and partitions. According to this plan, the stage becomes a parallelogram of one hundred and thirty eight feet by fifty eight. On each side is a lofty square building, advancing as far as the last mentioned wall; it consists of a basement, and two upper stories, from the highest of which a communicating gallery was carried along the back screen; the diameter of the semicircular part of the theatre, where the audience sat, is 142 English feet.*

* Further particulars may be found in D'Orville, Reidesfel, and other authors.

* This

* This ruin has an admirable effect, and, when entire, must have been one of the most noble buildings in Sicily. The wall of the city ran in a horizontal line under the brow of the hill behind the theatre, and without were placed the sepulchres of the citizens.—Some remain in ruins, others are converted into dwelling houses, and one of these

* A duke of St. Stephano carried off all the statues and ornaments of the theatre, but the magistrates of Taormina, finding this monument admired by foreigners, have bestowed occasional repairs upon it, and replaced some fragments of the columns; they are of white marble, and of the Corinthian order. By the turn of their foliage and other members, I take them to have been erected about the time of Domitian.

Numi Tauromenitani.

Ex Auro.

1. Cap. imb. laur. pileus.—Tripus ΤΑΥΡΟΜΕΝΙΤΑΝ.

Ex Argento.

1. Bovis facies—Racemus ΤΑΥΡΟΜ.

Ex Ære.

1. Cap. Apollinis Archagetæ—Minotaurus ΤΑΥΡΟΜΕΝΙΤΑΝ.
2. Idem cap.—Racemus ΤΑΥΡΟΜΕΝΙΤΑΝ.
3. Id. cap.—Lyra ΤΑΥΡΟΜΕΝΙΤΑΝ.
4. Id. cap.—Tripus ΤΑΥΡΟΜΕΙΤΑΝ.
5. Cap. Bacchi—Diana s. lanc. ten. canis ΤΑΥΡΟΜΕΝΙΤΑΝ.
6. Cap. Jovis—Aquila fulm. inf. III. ΤΑΥΡΟΜΕΝΙΤΑΝ.
7. Cap. Pall.—noctua ΤΑΥΡΟΜΕΝ.
8. Cap. mul.—Mul. ft. s. bacul. ΤΑΥΡΟ.
9. Cap. Apoll. ΤΑΥΡΟ—Tripus ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝΟ.
10. Cap. Apoll.—Taurus ΤΑΥΡΟΜΕΝΙΤΑΝ.
11. Cap. mul. canistro coron.—Minot. stella.
12. Cap. imb. noctua—Taurus ΤΑΥΡΟΜΕΝΙΤΑΝ.
13. Cap. imb. vir.—Minotaurus.
14. Cap. Apoll. Archagetæ—Taurus cornupet. ΤΑΥΡΟΜΕΝΙΤΑΝ.

columbaria

columbaria is actually used as a dove-cote. On the declivity above the town are several ancient reservoirs, arched and plaistered; the best preserved one is divided by a row of massive pillars into two rooms lighted by semicircular windows near the ceiling.

The ascent to Taormina was very steep and difficult, but I found the descent on the other side still more precipitate and perilous. The charms of the landscape amply repaid my labours. Were I to name a place that possesses every grand and beauteous qualification for the forming of a picture; a place on which I should wish to employ the powers of a Salvator or a Pouffin, Taormina should be the object of my choice.—Every thing belonging to it is drawn in a large sublime style; the mountains tower to the very clouds, the castles and ruins rise on mighty masses of perpendicular rock, and seem to defy the attacks of mortal enemies; Etna with all its snowy and woody sweeps fills half the horizon; the sea is stretched out upon an immense scale, and occupies the remainder of the prospect. I regretted much not having it in my power conveniently to spend some days on this delightful spot.

We travelled many miles along the beach, which is extremely confined by high cliffs. They are calcareous and generally of a species of red and white marble, which was in great esteem among the ancients. The houses in the villages on the shore are built with alternate courses of brick and stone, a method very frequently practised by

J O U R N E Y T O M E S S I N A.

the Greeks and Romans. The torrents were all dry, but their stony beds, and the wide extent which the rubblestones cover, shew how furious their course must be after heavy rains. I accounted it a very fortunate circumstance in my tour through Sicily, that out of the great number of rivers and mountain streams I was under the necessity of passing, only two were so swollen with floods as to cause any delay in my journey, though from the season of the year I had reason to expect that sort of inconvenience more frequently.

I stopt at Fiume di Nisi, and early next morning entered the city of Messina, through a range of gardens and suburbs, which presented a very novel scene, after a long coasting ride.

M E S S I N A.

S E C T I O N LVI.

AS I entered Messina on the land side, I felt none of those sensations of surprise and delight, with which travellers declare themselves in a manner overcome on a first view from the sea; my admiration rose gently and gradually as my walks led me to a view of the different beauties of its situation; for, in my way to the inn, nothing occurred to give me a very high opinion of the city; narrow streets; gloomy houses, little bustle of trade and still less shew of luxury.

A large chain of mountains presses upon the shore, and part of the city stands upon elevated ground.—The mountains are many of them nobly wooded; the hills before them finely chequered with groves and fields. As the town runs in a sweep along the edge of a declivity, every build-

ing of consequence is seen to advantage, while the less noble parts are hidden by the *Palazzata*. This is a regular ornamental range of lofty houses, with nineteen gates, answering to as many streets; it follows the semicircular bend of the port for one mile and five poles, and would have been the handsomest line of buildings in Europe, had the design been completed; but a considerable part of the extent is not finished, except merely in the front wall, and that seems to be in a very ruinous condition. Philibert Emmanuel of Savoy, viceroy of Sicily in 1622, began this princely work. Before it is a broad quay, decorated with statues and fountains; ships of any burden can moor close to the parapet, in great depth of water. At the west extremity is a small fort and a gate; the other end is closed by the governor's house and the citadel, a modern pentagonal fortress, built on the point where the isthmus or *bracchio di San Raniero* issues from the main land. On this slip of low ground, which, with the *Palazzata*, forms the circular harbour of Messina, one of the finest in the world, are placed the light-house, *lazzaretto*, and, on the point, the old castle of St. Salvatore. The circumference of the port is four miles; it probably owes its formation to an earthquake, which opened an immense chasm, and then filled it with water. The depth is so great, and the shore so abrupt, that a few weeks before my arrival at Messina, an English ship, by shifting her ballast, as she was hauling up to be careened, sank in seventy fathom water close by St. Salvatore.

Salvatore. The chroniclers say, that the duke of Puglia and his Normans landed first on an island before Messina, and that he vowed to build a church there in honour of San Salvatore if he succeeded in his enterprize.—From this expression, one would imagine that the braccio was not then connected with the island of Sicily.

Near the light-house is a kind of whirlpool in the sea, shewn as the Charybdis of the ancients. I saw nothing in it more than a rippling occasioned by the meeting of the tide and currents. The bottom of the Straights is shallow, and full of rocks; consequently, numberless points and cavities must occur to obstruct and perplex the regular course of the current, and cause whirlpools that are dangerous in stormy weather; or even in dead calms, when vessels may be embayed and drawn among the shallows from which they want wind to extricate themselves. I take it for granted that the sea has worn itself a passage through the Faro much more easy and expanded than it was when Homer composed his *Odyssey*, which perhaps was not many centuries after the waves had burst through the connecting Isthmus between Sicily and the coast of Reggio. Then Scylla might indeed be a tremendous rock, and the hollows under the sea, where the waters yet foaming, and agitated by the resistance they had met with at Scylla, were hurried and whirled about, must have been an irresistible vortex, from which no ship could escape. The alternate action of swallowing up and revomiting the
I wreck,

wreck, was similar to that of a pool at the foot of any lofty cascade: logs of wood that are swept over a precipice by the violence of a mountain torrent are thus absorbed, and thrown up again. Ulysses might stick to his fig-tree till the mast rose again from the deep, and catch it as it emerged with the return of the tide, though the poet has extended the time of his hanging beyond all bounds of probability. I think it is clear from Homer's description that Charybdis was almost opposite Scylla, and several miles north of the place where Messina now stands. No spot answers it so well as the Pantano grande, a large pool now surrounded with sand on the isthmus of cape Peloro, but still communicating with the sea by some subterraneous conduit, as its waters are salt, and ebb and flow regularly with those of the Straights: it is full of *purpuræ*, and other sea shell fish. Before the sands were cast up by some commotion of the earth so as to inclose this pond, it was probably the bottom of a small bay, resembling the end of a net, into which vessels that had the fortune to steer clear of Scylla were hurried by the rapidity of the currents. They still reign at the entrance of the Faro, but are certainly less violent than they were, when the passage was more confined. A tide is very perceptible at all times, but it has been observed to be uncommonly strong between the full moon of December and the new moon of January. The sea is then so disturbed with the struggles and contrary motions of its tides and currents, as to produce

duce innumerable whirlpools that render the navigation of the Streights excessively perilous: Fishermen are afraid at that time to venture to sea, or to attempt spreading a net: the same effects in a less degree are felt at the summer solstice. The agitation of this narrow sea is also very great during the time of the Equinoxes, but there are two seasons of the year, viz. the end of February, or beginning of March, and the latter part of September, or the first weeks in October, when there is scarce any tide to be discerned; a general calm and smoothness reigns upon the surface of the waters; objects are reflected upon it as clearly as in a mirror, and every danger of vortexes and currents disappears.

The inner part of Messina is dirty, though it contains a considerable number of neat churches, and large substantial dwellings. The cathedral is Gothic, enriched with Saracenic mosaics on the altars and shrines; the front of the high altar is particularly splendid; Gagini has embellished the pulpit and some tombs with excellent specimens of his art. As this was not the episcopal church on the first revival of that dignity by Earl Roger, I presume the buildings were raised under his son or grandson, either entirely from the ground or upon the foundation and remains of some ancient edifice. Among the tombs of several illustrious personages, is that of king Alphonfus the Second, whose former exploits and stern temper of mind were far from prognosticating the pusillanimity with which he fled from
his

his throne, and the despondency that disgraced the close of his career. During the life of his father Ferdinand, he had exerted himself with great vigour and animosity against the rebellious barons, and, therefore, lived in continual suspicion of their machinations. As soon as the approach of the king of France, Charles the Eighth, who claimed the crown of Naples in right of the second house of Anjou, had encouraged the discontented nobles openly to declare their hostile intentions, a panic struck the soul of Alphonfus; he resigned his sceptre to Ferdinand his son; a youth of great expectations, and a favourite with the nation, and threw himself into the arms of his cousin the king of Arragon. His fears operated most powerfully on his degraded mind; but the natural violence of his temper only changed its object; for in his retreat at Messina he became a mere penitent friar, passing his days in the churches, and driving away the bitter reflections that haunted him by long prayer and severe practices of mortification. In these habits he passed ten months after his abdication, and then died, an object of wonder and contempt, but not of pity, to his cotemporaries.

In the treasury of this church is preserved the palladium of Messina, a letter from the Virgin Mary to its citizens.*

This

* The story is as follows: After Saint Paul had made some stay at Messina, a circumstance of his travels unnoticed by Saint Luke, the Messinese

This is the title upon which the Messinese build their pretensions to pre-eminence over the whole island, nay, over the whole world; to its virtues and patronage they attribute every piece of good fortune, and to their own unworthiness, all sinister events that have befallen them. The authenticity of this epistle has been seriously impugned, and of course vigorously defended by many Sici-

Messinese prevailed upon him to return to Jerusalem with an embassy of four persons sent by the city to the Virgin Mary. Their excellencies were graciously received by her, and brought back a letter written with her own hand, in the Hebrew tongue, which Saint Paul translated into Greek. By the irruption of the Saracens this invaluable treasure was lost, and utterly forgotten till the year 1467, when Constantine Lascaris, a refugee Greek, found a copy of it, and turning it into Latin, made it known to the citizens, and then to all the Catholic world. Its authenticity is now so well established at Messina, that Regna the historian, candidly acknowledges that whoever was to confess even a doubt on the subject in that city would be treated as an infidel.

This curious epistle is conceived in these terms.

Maria Virgo Joachim filia Dei humillima Christi Jesu crucifixi Mater ex tribu Judæ stirpe David Messanenſibus omnibus salutem et Dei patris omnipotentis benedictionem. Vos omnes fide magna legatos ac nuncios per publicum documentum ad nos miſſiſſe conſtat. Filium noſtrum Dei genitum Deum et hominem eſſe fatemini et in cælum poſt ſuam reſurrex- tionem aſcendiſſe Pauli apoſtoli electi prædicatione mediante viam veritatis agnoſcentes. Ob quod vos et ipſam civitatem benedicimus cujus perpe- tuam protectricem nos eſſe volumus. Anno filii noſtri XLII. Indiçt. I. III. Nonas Junii luna XXVII. feria V. ex Hieroſolymis.

Not to dwell upon the astronomical blunders in these dates, let it suffice to observe, that Lascaris was not aware that Denis the Little, a Syrian monk, in the sixth century, was the first who made use of the æra that commences at our Saviour's birth.

lian divines and disputators. The writers of this nation are remarkable for maintaining with zeal every tradition, and pretension, however doubtful, that has ever been received among the inhabitants; they will not allow the slightest fault to be found with the natural or artificial productions of their country, or suffer Sicily to be deemed inferior to any thing but Paradise. I believe the judicious prince of Torremuza is the first Sicilian that dared to dispute the authenticity of any inscription or monument, which had been admitted as genuine. This tenaciousness may perhaps originate in the influence of the inquisition; for no man, however certain of the falsity of an opinion, or of the forgery of a monument, will venture to speak his mind, or thwart the general sentiment in a country, where his life and property depend upon the judgment which prejudiced and, probably, ignorant men shall pass upon his work; but whenever this sword of Damocles shall be removed from the heads of the literati, we may expect to see in Sicily a most happy change in the system of science.*

There is another church in this city that deserves particular notice, not so much on account of its architecture or ornaments, as for its being the last refuge of the Greek

* Their Sicilian majesties, ever eager to adopt any plan that may tend to the welfare or improvement of their subjects, have abolished this most odious tribunal.

liturgy,

liturgy, which was once the predominant service of the island, but gradually abolished by different conquerers.

It is dedicated to the V. Mary de Grapheo, or of the Letter, which denomination may, perhaps, have furnished Lascaris with the idea of his letter. It is known at present by the name of la Cattolica. According to the Greek canons, the entrance of monastic churches was reciprocally forbidden to each sex, and the cathedrals were the only places of worship where a daily sacrifice was offered up by the bishop and clergy, and where both men and women were present at the same time, but in different parts of the church. From this general admittance, the building acquired the title of Catholic or universal.

When the victorious Norman earl had completed the reduction of Sicily, he fixed the see of a bishop at Traina, under whose jurisdiction he placed all Greek as well as Latin Christians of the district: Upon the see being removed to Messina, he indulged the Greeks with a supreme pastor of their own by the title of Protopapa, a dignity which, with many essential diminutions of authority, subsists to this day.

Since the fourth Lateran council in 1225, these Greeks have been supposed to conform to the Latin rite, and as a test of their belief in the disputed points between the churches, are obliged to attend divine service on a particular day in the cathedral, and there to sing certain passages declaratory of these contested articles. While

commerce flourished at Messina, before rebellions and the plague had reduced its population to a shadow of its former state, the Greek school here was in great repute, and boasted of many learned men belonging to its body, but it has long been reduced to a state of insignificance; the Greeks actually resident at this port send their youth into the Levant to study, and however ignorant these scholars may return, they at least bring back with them strong prejudices against the Latin dogmas, though they may never be so incautious as to divulge their sentiments. The protopapa is dressed in a very sumptuous manner, and performs many episcopal functions as far as mere ceremony goes, for he has no powers left; he is nominated by the pope, and confirmed in his dignity by the archbishop of Messina.

A similar institution was established at Reggio in Calabria by earl Roger; though extremely hostile to the Greeks, whom he knew to be disaffected to his government, he found it sound policy to treat with lenity a people that was still formidable by its numbers, and to enslave them imperceptibly under the enjoyment of their own civil and religious laws; the Greek communion has failed at Reggio from the beginning of the last century, and its nominal pastor has long been a Roman priest.

After the introduction of the Christian hierarchy, the faithful of Sicily and Magna Grecia were subject to the jurisdiction of the bishop of Rome, and adhered to his communion long after the emperor Leo Isauricus had renounced

nounced all obedience to that see *. It was not till the tenth century that Peter, bishop of Otranto, in order to please the patriarch Polyeuctes, and to obtain the dignity of metropolitan, conformed to the Greek rite, and set the example of separation to the clergy of those parts of the empire; Sicily being subject to the Mahometan yoke, and lost to all connections with Rome, imitated the conduct of the Calabrians in these ecclesiastical disputes; but earl Roger, a zealous member of the Roman church, and, through policy, a declared enemy to the Grecian emperor and his communion, restored the pope to full authority over Sicily as soon as he had perfected the conquest of it. He detained one third of all its lands † for the use of the crown, another he divided among his followers, and the last division he gave to the church, without any claim upon the two other shares for tithes. But in the midst of this excessive liberality to the clergy, some care was taken by the Sicilian law to guard against their encroachments, though probably without constant success. By one regulation, it was stipulated that all ecclesiastics, who by any means should acquire possessions that had been allotted to the laity, were to dispose of them by sale or otherwise within one year and a

* Pagi says Sicily acknowledged the patriarch of Constantinople from that time, but other authorities prove it to be a mistake.

† I do not suppose he took *all* the lands from the old proprietors, as many Greek and Saracen families remained long after on the island in affluent circumstances.

few weeks: trusts and fictitious conveyances easily defeated the intentions of this statute. The most essential check to clerical power was given by the pope himself; Urban the Second, by a bull dated in the year 1098, which has been the subject of much controversy, appointed earl Roger and his successors perpetual vicars of the apostolic see, and legates in the island. The pontiff thus put into the hands of the Sicilian monarchs a weapon that has often been employed against the court of Rome, and has defended Sicily against many attempts towards an extension of papal authority. This legatine power is exercised by a tribunal called La Monarchia, which has often been attacked and anathematized. The pope entertained hopes of destroying this court during the precarious situation of Sicily under the house of Savoy, and instigated the bishop of Lipari to dispute its authority and appeal from its sentence to him; but, contrary to expectation, Victor Amadeus defended his rights with vigour, and the plans of the court of Rome were defeated. This tribunal judges all ecclesiastical appeals from the ordinary, and in the first instance decides all causes relative to persons exempted from the common jurisdictions, and subject to the pope only.

S E C T I O N LVII.

THE first name of Messina was Zancle, which in the old language of Sicily meant a sickle, alluding, as some authors suppose, to the form of the port, or, according to others, to the fertility of the country. Allured by the advantages of its situation, the Cumæans, a commercial and enterprising people, invaded the island and drove the Siculi from this settlement; they were in their turn overpowered by a band of Samian adventurers, who made way for a colony of citizens of Messene, and under these masters it changed its name to Messene, or Messina*. Their government was of short duration, for in the 289th year before Christ, it was destroyed by the Mamertines, a warlike unprincipled nation, inhabiting the south part of Brutium. These soldiers being received into Messina, on their return to Italy from Syracuse, where they had served as mercenaries in the army of Agathocles, took an opportunity of massacring the inhabitants, and usurping their possessions; in order to support themselves against the resentment of the Sicilian powers, they implored the protection of the Romans, who, eager to extend their domi-

* This name could not be derived from the word *Messis*, harvest, as some writers have imagined, because the city was called Messene long before a word of Latin had ever been spoken in Sicily.

nion beyond the limits of Italy, and jealous of the growing power of Carthage, made no scruple to succour these assassins with a consular army. This step brought on the first Punic war. The Mamertines reaped no other fruit from the alliance but a more honourable degree of slavery, for such was the real nature of their connection with Rome, whatever name it might be disguised under.

Messina was however always distinguished by particular attentions and favours from the senate, and, excepting a short period, during the wars of the Triumvirate, appears to have tasted all the sweets of Roman prosperity, without partaking of the bitter draughts of adversity. Its fate, in the ruin of the empire, was similar to that of the rest of Sicily. In 829 Messina fell into the hands of the Saracens, but obtained very honourable terms of capitulation, for half the city was left to the Christians, where they were to be governed by their own laws, and profess their own religion undisturbed. In the other resided the bey of one of the five provinces into which the Arabian conquerors had divided the island. Notwithstanding this indulgence, Messina was the first to cast off the yoke in 1037, when George Maniaces landed an army of Greeks and Normans on the shore of the Faro; it afterwards held out against the whole Musulman force, till the feeble state of a distracted empire shut out all hopes of assistance from Constantinople: This unfortunate city then opened its gates to the army of the caliph, and felt very severely the weight of his resentment;

ment; but it did not long groan under the yoke, for in less than twenty years Roger the Norman took it by surprise and delivered it from Mahometan oppression. During the crusade our Richard Cœur de Lion and Philip Augustus, king of France, wintered here in their way to Palestine, a sojourn marked by continual quarrels, conflagration and bloodshed. The Messinese were particularly tardy in entering into the national conspiracy of 1282, but afterwards exceeded the rest of the insurgents in deeds of cruelty: This and the importance of their situation, singled them out for the first objects of Charles's vengeance: He invested their city very closely, and declared so openly his determination to refuse all terms whatever to the besieged, that they saw no hopes of safety but in an obstinate defence. Their courage, perseverance and sufferings were excessive; at length their strength and resources began to fail rapidly, and every circumstance seemed to denounce their speedy destruction, when Roger Lauria appeared off the harbour with the Arragonian fleet, forced the king to retire with precipitation across the straits, and, in his flight, defeated and destroyed his naval armament. Robert, grandson of Charles the First, also made a fruitless attack, but in the disturbed reign of Frederic the Third, Messina was delivered up to Lewis king of Naples and his consort queen Joan, who entered it in triumph.—In a few years it returned to its former possessors. The year 1672 was remarkable for the revolt of the Messinese.—They threw off the

Spanish yoke, and swore allegiance to Louis the Fourteenth king of France: They were for some time vigorously assisted by the French; but before the Spaniards had gained the least advantage to excite any hopes of recovering so valuable a possession, Lewis found himself necessitated from motives of political interest to desert his new subjects, and leave them to the mercy of their old incensed masters. The horror of being thus abandoned, and the chastisement inflicted by Spain broke the fierce spirit of the Messinese; they were still stunned with the remembrance and effects of this blow when the plague in 1743 was introduced from the Levant and swept away more than half the inhabitants. From this chain of calamities the opulence, trade, and population of Messina have been gradually sinking, and, unless very favourable circumstances happen, will every year fall lower. The number of its inhabitants does not now exceed 30,000.

The reception I had met with at Palermo discouraged me from presenting any of my Neapolitan letters to the nobility of Messina, and after seeing the churches and other places of note, I prepared for my return to Naples. I accordingly agreed for my passage with a Provencal, captain of the only ship then in the harbour bound up the Mediterranean; I paid him a high price on condition he left the port the next morning, or with the first fair wind, but no sooner had I, at his pressing request, sent all my baggage on board, than he began to devise excuses for stay-

ing in hopes of procuring more cargo or other passengers. By affected delays he put off sailing for some days, which I passed in a very disagreeable manner in continual walks between my lodgings and the ship. I am indebted to the politeness of Mr. Bomeester, the British consul, for the little respite I had from this irksome employment, and for the entertainment his company afforded me. At last, seeing the captain as unwilling as ever to fulfil his agreement, and being apprehensive if we did sail together in such ill humour with each other, that he would not touch at Naples but carry me on to Marseilles, I hired a six oared felucca for Naples and set out immediately. The Provencal refused to deliver up my effects, and for fear I should compel him to give them by lodging a complaint before the governor, hoisted sail and dropt down to the Punta del Faro, a few miles off, where he cast anchor before I had left the port *.

S E C T I O N LVIII.

THE commerce of both Sicilies is almost entirely of a passive nature, arising from the necessity of disposing of their superfluous products in exchange for those of
F F F 2
foreign

* Numi Messian.

Ex Argento.

1. Delphin. ΔANKΛE—In tab. quadr. incuss. caput imberbe.

2. Laurea

foreign countries, which habit and luxury have rendered necessary to them for the support, cloathing or convenience of their inhabitants. A very small proportion of their own raw materials are manufactured in the country either for home consumption or foreign sale, and no traffic is here carried on by purchasing foreign commodities on speculation, and sending them out again to an advantageous market. Industry of that kind is unknown, and the very trifling quantity of shipping belonging to these realms,

2. Laurea in qua MEΣ—Lepus currens concha.
 3. Vir in big. sup. volit. vict. gran. hord.—In laurea lepus et concha MEΣΣANION.
 4. Biga 2 delph. vict. supervol.—Lepus cap. human. MEΣΣANION.
 5. Figura nuda barb. in curru uno equo ducto—fol.—Lepus MEΣΣANION.
 6. Biga 2 delph. MEΣΣANION—Lepus. Arist. MEΣΣANION.
 7. Cap. mulieb. gran. redimit. 2 pisces—Victoria in big.—MEΣΣANION.
 8. Cap. imb. 2 pisces NAI—Mil. nud. d. haft. s. clyp. ten. MEΣΣANION.
 9. Herculis cap. MEΣΣANION—Leo. clava WE.
 10. Fig. in big. duabus mul. duct. 2 pisces MEΣΣANO—Apis MEΣΣANO.
 11. Fig. in curru cum mul. fulmen MEΣΣANO—Lepus concha.
 12. Cap. Cereris 2 pisces MEΣΣANO—Miles nud. d. haft. s. clyp. MEΣΣANION.
 13. Lepus Æ locusta MEΣΣANAION—Polypus.
Ex Ære.
 1. Cap. Herc. imb. MEΣΣANION—Leo tæda.
 2. Cap. mul. diad. MEΣΣANA—Figura in biga.
 3. Biga cum figur. nud.—Lepus MEΣΣANION.
- Cæteri ad Mamertinos spectant.

proves

proves the little attention paid to such a line of trade ; the constant warfare subsisting between them and the states of Barbary, necessarily confines them in their voyages, and induces them to give the preference to such bottoms as navigate under a free flag. Almost every article received into these kingdoms may more properly be said to be called in by artificial wants and the caprices of luxury, than brought to supply the real call of necessity ; a moderate degree of spirit and encouragement might easily procure the same supplies at home, or at least good succedanea. Lead, iron, and some other commodities, must, no doubt, be excepted, and considered as acquirable only by importation. On the other hand, all the exports are the raw unmanufactured produce of the soil, therefore in years of scarcity, the inconveniences arising from the inequalities in their fund, and the equality of the demand for foreign merchandize, must be severely felt.

In many points Sicily has an advantage over Naples, but as to its general mode of traffic is much more disagreeably situated, for Sicily does not deal so directly with foreign ports ; it receives most of its imports through the medium of a consignment to Naples. I speak in general terms, for it sometimes happens that foreigners bring a freight to the island at the risk of the market, and trade directly with the Sicilian merchants : This is the case in years of bad crops in other countries, when Sicily, still the never failing granary of Europe, offers her constant and abundant harvests
to

to other nations, and becomes the general rendezvous, where the distressed countries apply for sustenance: The balance runs then very high in favour of Sicily, especially against Spain, and specie is then remarkably plentiful in the island.

The numerous rich articles produced in Sicily are so necessary to the well-being of other nations, that its profits and prosperity would be boundless, were it not for a multitude of vicious arrangements and pernicious shackles, with which its commerce is harrassed and wasted down. I shall endeavour to point out some of the most onerous, after recapitulating the various commodities Sicily can part with to strangers, without injuring or cramping its home consumption. The real harbours are few, where vessels can lie in safety during a storm, but there are many roads in which, during the fine season, ships can ride at anchor and receive their cargoes from lighters with great security.

The principal trade of the island is carried on at Palermo and Messina; the former consumes of imports four or five times more than the latter; but on account of lighter duties, Messina exports a greater quantity of silk, and supplies the inland towns with more commodities. The business of other places on the coast, consists solely in shipping corn, wine, salt, &c. Trapani, on account of its famous salt-pans and the shipping belonging to it, is one of the busiest commercial towns in the island.

E X-

E X P O R T S.

CORN.—No ships can take in a cargo at any port or road in Sicily, without previously touching at Palermo, and procuring a permit for that purpose at the rate of one tariper falma. No exportation of wheat can take place, but by leave of the *real patrimonio*, a tribunal that takes an account of the year's crop, and the demand for home-supply, before it issues any licences for exportation. These are not difficult to obtain, nor will I certify what I have heard insinuated, that the great feudatories find means to monopolize these permits, and to oblige the lesser proprietors of land to dispose of their corn to them.

In order to give greater opportunities of carrying on so lucrative a trade, to which the number of ports, especially on the southern coast, is by no means adequate, many establishments have been made at proper places called *caricatori*. Here corn may be brought and deposited in public magazines till an opportunity offers of shipping it off. A receipt is given, which is negotiable like a bill of exchange during one year. The deposit is taken care of, and accounted for to the proprietor, who is at full liberty to sell it in what proportion he pleases. The *caricatore* finds its profit in a duty of eighteen taris per falma on the corn exported, and in the increase of weight in the corn. If a cargo be shipped immediately after harvest, an additional tari is charged to make up for the loss of increase by this speedy removal. Girgenti, Termini, Sciacca, and Licata, are the
four

four great caricatori; the lesser ones are Marfala, Castellamare, Siculiana, Terranova, Scoglietti, Melaffo, Cefalu, Oliveri, and a few very small ones besides.

Large quantities of Barley and Pulse grow in Sicily, but very little oats or millet. Canary-bird feed is exported to a large amount, and is almost peculiar to the island.

Kidney beans abound, and are shipped mostly at Palermo and Scoglietti. Barley at Sciacca, Girgenti, Licata, and Scoglietti; Beans and other pulse at Catania, Girgenti, Alicata, and Sciacca. Sicily produces but little Indian corn.

OIL.—Large quantities of oil are exported from Melazzo, Oliveri, Pittineo, Cefalu, and Palermo, all which places lie on the north side of the island. About 4800 salme annually.

WINE.—In abundance and great variety from Syracuse, Catania, Castelvetro, Marfala, Castellamare, and Melazzo.

BRANDY.—Much exported, because the burning of it is not monopolized, nor the exportation restrained as at Naples.

CHEESE.—White of goat's milk, and yellow, or *cagiocavallo* of cow's milk.

SALT FISH.—The fisheries are very productive, and great quantities of tunny, anchovies, and sardines are salted and sent from the neighbourhood of these places, where they are caught.

SILK.—The art of feeding silk-worms and making silk
is

is said by Procopius to have been brought to Constantinople in the reign of Justinian the First, in the sixth century, by a monk from the eastern parts of Asia. George of Antioch, commander of a fleet belonging to Roger king of Sicily, having made a successful cruise on the coast of Negropont, carried off several artificers skilled in the manufacture of silk, and the management of the insects. He settled them in Sicily, from whence the art was communicated to the western countries of Europe.

Silk is considered as the second great source of riches to Sicily, corn being undoubtedly the first: a quantity of silk, equal in value to a million of ducats (187,500*l.*) is annually exported. Palermo and Messina alone send it out; a considerable quantity of the materials are manufactured in both places; but Palermo, which employs nine hundred looms, exports very little, most of its silks being used at home.—Messina employs twelve hundred looms, and Catania rather more. In the Messinese manufactures a variety of silks are made, but the silk is seldom well drawn, died or matched, and the work is apt to prove hard and to rub.—most of it goes to the Levant.

FRUIT.—The environs of Girgenti abound with almonds, but other ports also furnish a considerable stock. Lipari gives raisins and currants, but of a quality inferior to those of Calabria. Sicily alone produces Pistachio nuts. Carob beans are likewise an article of trade. Two thousand chests of oranges are shipped annually at Messina.

FLAX, HEMP, and COTTON.—Very little is produced.

MANNA.—The Sicilian manna is not so good as that of Monte Gargano. Most of it is gathered near Carini, Favarotta, &c. and exported from Palermo. A great deal goes likewise from Messina, and, as there is neither prohibition nor monopoly, and the duty is fixed, these trees are cultivated with more spirit and advantage here than in the kingdom of Naples, where the manna is farmed out, and the trade hampered with baneful exclusive rights and inhibitions.

BARILLA.—A large quantity is shipped from the southern coast. The quantity sent to England is near the half of the quantity sent thither from Spain.

SALT.—Trapani produces the whitest and heaviest: Augusta, Camarata, and Spaccaforo give a large quantity. It is entirely free from all duty, the nation having persevered and succeeded in a constant opposition to every attempt made towards raising a revenue out of it, except in the articles of salt for fish, for exportation, and for feeding sheep.

SUMACH.—The most esteemed comes from Alcamo, Castelamare, and Monreale. The next in quality grows at Termini and Girgenti.

LEMON JUICE.—Messina sends off six thousand chests of pickled lemons, and the rest of the kingdom about as much more; two hundred and eighty barrels of lemon juice weighing ten salme each, and 27 cwt. of bergamot juice.

HARE

HARE and RABBIT SKINS.—Principally the latter, as they bear a much better price.

RAGS.—Which the Sicilians are silly enough to sell to the Genoese, and buy back again in paper, though they have the example of the Neapolitans before their eyes, who have built paper mills.

SULPHUR.—Of good quality and great abundance, made near Mazzareno and shipped at Terranova.

There are other objects of export trade, which might be recapitulated, but not being sufficiently considerable, do not deserve a place in the list. The principal articles are linseed-oil, gall-nuts, turpentine, lumber, &c.

I M P O R T S.

As all the species of merchandize that are brought into the kingdom of Naples are also imported into that of Sicily, the list given in the first volume of the articles imported into the Neapolitan ports will answer the same purpose here. The difference between the import traffic of each respective country consists in this, that the Sicilian merchants never send commissions to the original marts, such as England, France, Germany, or America, but receive their goods at second-hand from the Genoese, Venetian, or Leghornese factors. Indeed it must be considered that they have no bottoms of their own to send to market, and if foreign ships were not to come and carry off the produce of their lands, it might rot on the surface. So

that except the Trapanese, who shew a little spark of activity and commercial intelligence, the rest of the nation remains passive to be plundered by the more adventurous speculators of other countries. Of late, on account of longer credit being given, the Sicilians incline more to deal with Naples than with Leghorn. The custom-house of Palermo allows so short and confined a leave of deposit or transit, and that embarrassed with so many complex and inconvenient impositions, that speculation becomes too dangerous an experiment for a merchant with a moderate capital to try.

DUES and IMPOSTS relative to TRADE.

The proportions and modes of collecting observed in the management of the customs are so various, that it is very difficult to speak otherwise than in general terms, and according to average statements. They agree in nothing but the vicious method of charging goods according to their supposed value, not by a regular rate. It is a rule in every port, except Messina, to charge the duty upon merchandize passing through the custom-house, according to the estimate of a broker, and the current prices, so that the duties vary every day, and great are the inconveniences and injustices attending such a vague procedure.

It is very difficult to give a precise idea of so complicated a subject, but I shall endeavour to draw up a short statement of the principal dues exacted at Palermo and all
the

the rest of the Island, except Messina, which will require an article apart.

On IMPORTATION.

All goods entered, are valued upon affidavit. If they are transmited to any other place in Sicily, they are exempt from all further duties, provided they be landed at places belonging to the crown; if on baronial estates, or ecclesiastical districts, they are left to the mercy of particular regulations.

If entered at any other port than Palermo, they are subject to the king's duty and the customs of the place, which vary exceedingly. Sugar and fine cloth can be landed nowhere but at the capital and Messina.

The natives of twenty-four cities and towns, enjoy the privilege of paying less than any other inhabitants upon certain entries, but there are so many other charges made, that their franchises and exemptions amount in reality to a very trifling saving. Besides, the fair of S. Christina at Palermo, during which foreigners and non-exempt natives have the liberty of importing in a free manner, helps to put all parties nearly upon a level.

All goods pay two taris per onza, on the valuation, two grana and one half per cantaro for the use of the weights, and five taris for a permit. Over and above this imposition, all pieces of cloth, linen or silk, pay for measurement ten grana, and from one to four taris a piece according to the quality.

Refined

Refined sugars pay thirty taris per cantaro, Muscavado sugars twenty, and half per cent. for the weights, and dried fish pays twelve per cent. in kind.

Wax is the only commodity that has a fixed rate. It pays 14 ounces per cantaro.

N.B. There is an increase of these duties for foreigners and non-exempts that raises the duty from $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. goods are allowed to remain fifteen days only in the public warehouses before they are sent into the interior parts of the island.

On EXPORTATION.

Corn pays no duty but the tax upon the licence for exporting. Nothing can be so various as the method of taxation in the different ports, and therefore it is impossible without entering into long details to specify them. The only general rule is to tax according to the value given in by the brokers.

Upon an average, the amount of duties paid upon goods exported is three per cent. for *dazio regio* and $3\frac{1}{3}$ for *tratta locale*. Foreigners and non-exempts pay $1\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. more.

It is now fifty-five years since the commercial inhabitants of Messina, being convinced of the inconveniences attending the vague and perplexed system of the Sicilian custom-houses, applied to government for leave to establish other regulations: this being obtained, they fixed upon an easy, equal and expeditious method of proceeding.

All goods imported pay once for all one per cent. of their value according to a fixed moderate rate, and may be exported again without any additional demand; but if they are sent into the country, even to Palermo, they become subject to a duty of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

All commodities, natives of Sicily, may be introduced upon the same terms.

There are some small exceptions with regard to provisions, salt-fish and sugar.

Respecting commodities exported, raw-filk pays no duty at the place where it is made, every thing being paid at Palermo or Messina; at the latter it pays $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. according to the book of rates, six per cent. for the gabella, and four per cent. more for expences till the ship sails.

Manufactured filks are exempt from the gabella. But there is also levied upon all goods imported or exported throughout the island, twenty-five grana per cantaro for weighing.

VOYAGE FROM MESSINA
TO
T R O P E A.

SECTION LIX.

ON the 7th of February, at three in the afternoon, I entered the barge with my two servants. We had only a few changes of linen, a mattress I had bought for the occasion, a sack of potatoes and a keg of porter, the present of an English captain bound to the Levant, our great coats, and the clothes we then wore. The arms of the company consisted of my pocket pistols, without a second charge of powder and ball; one hanger, which was grown so rusty it could not be drawn out of the scabbard, and two whips. Thus lightly equipped we left Messina, and rowed along the shore of La Grutta, a famous pilgrimage, and, saluting our French captain as we passed him



Henry Swinburne Esq: del:

Peter Mazell sculp:

~ ~ Mount Etna
 ~ ~ Citadel
 ~ ~ ~ Cathedral
 ~ ~ ~ Lazaretto

A VIEW of MESSINA as in 1777.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ St. Salvador
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Light House
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Salt Ponds

Published according to Act of Parliament, Oct 5th. 1783, by W. Faden, Printseller, Corner of St. Martins Lane, Strand.

him at anchor, reached Cape Peloro, and the Torre del Faro. This is a long sandy neck of land advancing within one mile and an half of the Calabrian coast, which is here very abrupt and lofty.

This isthmus shuts up the streights to the eye, so that the tower and light-house appear to be on the Italian side of the water. It is so difficult to navigate through the entrance of the Faro, that pilots are always stationed ready to put to sea, as soon as a vessel is seen in the offing; if the captain refuses to give up the helm, he becomes personally responsible for any accident that may happen to the ship. The distance across is so small, that many instances occur in history of its being passed in a very adventurous manner. Timoleon and the Corinthians, finding the seas too well guarded by the tyrant Dionysius and his confederates for them to attempt an invasion of Sicily openly, made use of the following expedient to effect their purpose. They embarked at Rhegium in small fishing boats, and, making their horses swim by their side, thus crossed the channel that Dionysius thought an insuperable barrier.

When the universal submission of Puglia and Calabria gave the Normans leisure to meditate the conquest of the neighbouring island, Roger passed over with a small body of forces, more for the sake of reconnoitring the country, the strength and situation of his enemies, than with the hopes of gaining any solid advantage over them in this first expedition. He had some encounters with them, and

formed an idea of the opposition he was to expect, but, being apprehensive his few followers might be overpowered by numbers, thought it prudent to retire in time; he carried them back to Reggio, in little cobs, and upon rafts.

But the most extraordinary exploit of the kind is found in the life of St. Francis de Paula: The writers of his history boldly affirm, that being refused a passage in the ferry-boat, as he had nothing to pay it with, he spread his cloak upon the waters, and raised one end of it with his staff, so as to form the hull, sail, and mast; he then stepped upon it, and with a prosperous gale crossed the streights.

I stopped a few minutes to take a last view of Messina, which appears very nobly from this point, and then doubled the Cape of Pelorus, the northern promontory of the triangle, from which Sicily derived the name of Trinacria, and its emblematical symbol *. We now glided close under Scylla's much dreaded rocks, without cause of fear, for the water was scarce undulated, and no surf was seen to break at the foot of the cliff, nor bellowing heard among its dark caverns. When a tempest rages, the dashing and roaring of the billows, as they are driven into these broken cavities, is truly horrible, and capable of striking terror into the most intrepid mariner, if his vessel drives near this clash of the elements. A large castle covers the summit of this

* Three human thighs joined in a full face crowned with ears of corn.

famous rock, and from it a line of houses extends on both sides in a slope to the beach, which is semicircular, planted with trees, and sheltered by very high cliffs †. The inhabitants of Scilla are industrious mariners and fishermen, and have the reputation of being a mild honest race of men, but not wanting in proper spirit, when roused by oppression. They have lately exhibited a strong proof of their courage and perseverance, in a prosecution they have carried on against the lord of the manor. The prince of Scilla, who is of the Rufo family *, was accused of exercising the most wanton tyranny over his vassals, and of employing a band of miscreants, not only against the property, but even the lives of the unhappy Scillitans. The continuance of such barbarous usage drove them to an exertion rather uncommon in a country where aristocratical dominion has yet so strong a hold; they formed a committee; and sent it by sea to lay their grievances at the foot of the throne, and to implore the protection of the king, from whom alone they could expect support and safety. These patriotic citizens were not daunted by the weighty interest of the baronage, which they foresaw would join to defeat their attack upon one of its members, nor by the expence to be incurred,

† These cliffs are composed of calcareous rock resting upon a mass of granite.

* The family of Rufo is supposed to be descended from a relation of the Norman dukes of Puglia, and has ever since been rated among the richest and greatest barons of the realm.

and the certainty of still greater sufferings, in case of ill success in their law suit; they listened solely to the sense of their wrongs, and the acuteness of their resentment, and pursued their object with unremitting vigour: During the struggle, they found an able assistant in their fellow citizen, P. Antonio Minasi, to whose zeal and intelligence they probably owe the victory they at last obtained over their antagonist.—A victory not so complete as the justice of their cause might perhaps have entitled them to, but certainly very considerable in so unequal a conflict, and redounding highly to the praise of the sovereign, who must have found incredible obstacles of all kinds to overcome before he could obtain a candid fair state of the case, whereon to found his sentence; it was a very humiliating one for the prince of Scilla*.

S E C T I O N LX.

WE had scarce reached the point of Bagnara, before we found the current set in so strong towards Sicily, that all our efforts to advance were ineffectual, and we were obliged to drop down with it to the
Sicilian

* These unhappy differences have been settled by the terrible earthquake which, on the 5th of February 1783, destroyed the town of Scilla; and by an inundation of the sea, that in one moment swept into eternity 2743 inhabitants,

Sicilian shore, and cast anchor till the ebb of the tide.
The evening was extremely pleasant, and the prospect all
round

habitants, together with their baron. This fatal event has made so total an alteration in the face of the country I describe, that it seems a duty incumbent upon me to give some account of it, in order to make my readers acquainted with the present as well as the former state of the unhappy province of Calabria. For that purpose I shall first transcribe a letter written soon after from Scilla by a person who had been present at every scene of the calamity.

Scilla, February 10.

—“ How am I to describe to you the horrors that have surrounded me
“ without intermission since the fatal day that saw the ruin of our
“ wretched country?—Where am I to find words equal to the acuteness of
“ my feelings, or fit to express even a thousandth part of the disasters that
“ have befallen us? Oh what a day! but what a night succeeded it!

“ On the 5th of February at 19 hours and 3 quarters we felt a shock
“ that began by an upward heaving motion, which gave the alarm, and
“ time to most persons to run out of their houses: some fled to the win-
“ dows and balconies; others took refuge under the arches of the doors.
“ This upright motion of the earth was soon succeeded by shaking and
“ rocking, during which we beheld our houses tumbling on all sides.
“ The walls and towers of the castle were split asunder and overturned upon
“ the town; the buildings below were crushed to atoms, and one hundred
“ and fifty persons perished in this fall. At night a considerable part of
“ the inhabitants, chiefly of the class of sailors, followed the example of the
“ prince, and repaired to the beach; they there pitched tents, or lay down
“ in their barks, hoping to pass the night in perfect security at a distance
“ from all buildings. The sky was bright and serene, the sea lulled in
“ a profound calm, and all these poor people were indulging in sweet sleep
“ a short respite from their woes. In this treacherous state of things, a
“ little after midnight the whole promontory of Campala fell at once
“ before

round truly enchanting; mountains inclosed us on every side but one, where the Liparean islands rose along the horizon.

“ into the sea, without any previous earthquake *. The sea fled back
 “ before this mass towards the Golilla del Faro, where it carried off
 “ twenty-eight persons with their boats and houses; then returning with
 “ redoubled fury across its natural channel, flowed on the shore of Scilla,
 “ thirty palms above its usual level, and three miles along the coast. As
 “ it fell back again, it swept away into the abyss 2475 persons, who were
 “ lying on the sands, or in boats. Horrible were the shrieks of the sur-
 “ vivors, who happened to be above the reach of the surge, and tremen-
 “ dous was the alarm given over all the surrounding hills, where the
 “ remainder of the inhabitants were dispersed for safety! no cries, no la-
 “ mentations were heard from those that were thus hurried off, they had
 “ no power or time to utter any. Next morning presented a most shock-
 “ ing spectacle;—800 bodies were washed ashore, most of them mangled
 “ in so dreadful a manner by the broken boats, goods and logs of wood
 “ that were floated off with them, that scarce a human feature remained
 “ in those faces which we had so long known, and looked upon with the
 “ pleasure of friends or relations. With streaming eyes we laboured the
 “ ensuing day, in dragging these sad remains into heaps, and consuming
 “ them with fire, to prevent the contagion so many dead bodies might
 “ breed, if left to putrefy in the open air. A few persons were drawn out
 “ of the water with signs of life, but so wounded and disabled as scarce to
 “ afford room to hope they can recover. Hope, did I say? Alas! rather
 “ ought it to be fear, for what have they left in life that can be desirable?—
 “ their fortunes ruined—their friends and families destroyed;—famine,
 “ disease, and pain are all they have to expect.”

* The mountains near Scilla have a base of granite abounding in quartz, and mica, with a little field spath. Above this lies a marine calcareous stratum, and at intervals among it a metallic schist, clay, and vegetable earth. The earthquakes had made great perpendicular fissures in Monte Campalà and detached it from the continent, the torrents rushing from the higher mountains, and much increased by rain, completed the separation by the weight and action of their waters.

horizon. Stromboli, a little to the right of them, threw up a great quantity of flames during the whole night. We
were

The same instant was fatal to the whole province, and the devastation caused by the repeated shocks was much more terrible in many places than at Scilla; they raged with fury from Cape Spartivento to Amantea above the gulf of St. Eufemia, and also affected that part of Sicily which lies opposite to the southern extremity of Italy. Those of the 5th and 7th of February, and of the 28th of March were the most violent, and completed the destruction of every building throughout the above-mentioned space. Not one stone was left upon another south of the narrow isthmus of Squillace; and what is more disastrous, a very large proportion of the inhabitants was killed by the falling of their houses: near 40,000 lives were lost. Some persons were dug out alive after remaining a surprising length of time buried among the rubbish. Messina became a mass of ruins; its beautiful palazzata was thrown in upon the town; its quay cracked into ditches full of water. Reggio almost destroyed—Tropea greatly damaged—Every other place I visited in the province levelled to the ground.

Before and during the concussion the clouds gathered, and then hung immovable and heavy over the earth. At Palmi the atmosphere wore so fiery an aspect, that many people thought part of the town was burning. It was afterwards remembered that an unusual heat had affected the skin of several persons just before the shock; the rivers assumed a muddy ash-coloured tinge, and a sulphureous smell was almost general. A frigate passing between Calabria and Lipari felt so severe a shock, that the steersman was thrown from the helm, and the cannons were raised up on their carriages, while all around the sea exhaled a strong smell of brimstone.

Stupendous alterations were occasioned in the face of the country; rivers choaked up by the falling in of the hills were converted into lakes, which if not speedily drained by some future convulsion, or opened by human labour, will fill the air with pestilential vapours, and destroy the remnants of population. Whole acres of ground, with houses and trees upon them, were broken off from the plains, and washed many furlongs down the deep hollows, which the course of the rivers had worn; there, to the astonish-
ment

were furrounded by fishing boats. The Calabrese fishermen catch the larger sort of fish with a net of small twine
about

ment and terror of beholders, they found a new foundation to fix upon, either in an upright or an inclining position. In short, every species of phenomenon, incident to these destructive commotions of the earth, was to be seen in its utmost extent and variety in this ruined country. It may furnish employment for the ingenuity of the naturalist to trace these paroxysms up to some favourite system; but he must despair of ever devising any method of counteracting their baneful operations. The utmost he can hope to attain, is to be able to ascertain certain prelude symptoms, which, if attended to, may hereafter be the means of saving the lives of the inhabitants. With this view, and to satisfy the general curiosity of Europe, strongly excited by the report of such a catastrophe, their Sicilian majesties soon after sent into Calabria a committee of Academicians, provided with every means of obtaining knowledge, and making observations. But the advancement of science was only a secondary object; warm with the genuine sentiments of humanity, heightened by a true paternal affection for their subjects, they dispatched vessels loaded with every thing that could be thought of on the occasion for the relief and accommodation of the distressed Calabrians; a general officer went from Naples with engineers and troops to direct the operations of the persons employed in clearing away and rebuilding the houses, and to defend the property of the sufferers.

The king ordered this officer to take all the money the royal treasures could supply or borrow; for, rather than it should be wanting on this pressing call, he was determined to part with his plate, nay, the very furniture of his palace. Heaven knows how necessary at this crisis were the exertions and liberality of the sovereigns; for famine, with its usual follower disease, was already felt in the most horrible degree throughout the province. A messenger sent off from a town near Reggio on the 8th of February, travelled four days without shelter, and without being able to procure a morsel of bread; he supported nature with a piece of cheese
which

about two hundred yards long, and twelve feet deep; this weak net folds round the fish in so many rolls, that,
by

which he had brought in his pocket, and the vegetables he was lucky enough to find near the road. To add to all their other sufferings, the Calabrians found themselves and the miserable wreck of their fortunes exposed to the depredations of robbers and pyrates. Villains landed from boats, and plundered several places, and thieves went even from Naples in search of booty: In order to strike a greater terror, they dressed themselves like Algerines, but were discovered, and driven off. To this accumulated distress succeeded a most inclement season, which obstructed every effort made to alleviate it; and almost daily earthquakes kept the inhabitants in continual dread, not of being destroyed by the fall of houses, for none were left, but of being swallowed up by the splitting of the earth, or buried in the waves by some sudden inundation. The earthquakes have continued at different intervals to this day, two years since the great shock.

Upon comparing the dates of the great earthquakes that have afflicted Calabria since the eleventh century, I find that seven of them happened in the four first months of the year, one in August and four in November and December. The first week in February had been twice fatal, and the 27th day of March thrice marked by the calamity before 1783.

I think it worthy of remark that, in the month of February 1783, a person well acquainted with Naples, being at my house in the county of Durham, observed upon the unusual variation of the barometer, that it was probable we should soon hear of some great earthquake having happened in the south part of Europe.

As the Neapolitan academicians intended to collect materials for a minute description of the effects of the earthquake, the nature of its phenomena, and the present appearance of the country, it is to be hoped they will soon favour the world with the result of their labours. Till it appears, the reader, who wishes a fuller account of this catastrophe, will find it in Sir William Hamilton's letter inserted in the Philosophical Transactions of 1783.

by his own efforts to escape, he becomes quite hampered and disabled, without having the power of breaking the meshes; the fishermen guess with great nicety the weight of the prey by the violence of the stroke with which his tail beats the water when taken.

All this coast abounds with testaceous fish of many different species.

At stated seasons shoals of fish appear at the mouth of the Faro, and are caught in surprising numbers.

The bays are full of them about the vernal equinox, when the multitudes of tunny, sword-fish, and pelamides enter the Mediterranean, and pass before Messina, from the end of April to the beginning of July, in their way to the Adriatic, Archipelago, and Black Sea. They then return into the Sicilian seas, that their females may deposit their spawn in the calm bays of the Mediterranean. About October the young fry are caught on the coast of Amalfi and Puzzuoli, and weigh about twelve

To blend a tint of more pleasing colours to so gloomy a picture, I must not omit to record that the officers and porters belonging to the custom-house of Naples, who were employed in packing up and carrying to the ships the goods, &c. for Calabria, universally refused to accept of pay for their labour.

Five Calabrians, casually resident at Naples at the time of the earthquake, received from the king's bounty a sum of two hundred ducats for present subsistence; but as soon as these men found by letters from Calabria that their families and fortunes were not involved in the general ruin, they immediately returned the money to the treasury.

pounds. At that season the parent fish commonly escapes, and with its remaining young repairs to the ocean. These shoals get into the line of the tides, or currents that run from west to east, and in their way towards the seas of Greece coast along the shores of Calabria, and through the Faro of Messina, where the narrowness and suction of the passage accelerate their motion. On their return they swim with the ebb tide, and steer to the south of Sicily, where the gradual declivity of the bottom makes it more perceptible. Tunnies move in a pyramidical arrangement, presenting the base to the stream, by which means they are pushed forward by it with greater velocity. While the weather is tempestuous, or the tide does not answer, they play about in the bays, and seek food; and here they often fall into snares, and meet their fate. The sword-fish, whose long sharp snout is dangerous to a neighbour, keep at due distance from each other, and travel in an irregular manner. Dolphins form a column in their periodical voyages; but when they mean to give chase to the other inhabitants of the deep, they draw up in semicircular array, and force their terrified prey to fly towards the shallows; it frequently leaps ashore to avoid the pursuing enemy, and there falls into the hands of fishermen, who, having perceived the attack made by the dolphins, run down to the beach to seize the fugitives.

The pelamides swarm here at certain times of the year; Linnæus supposes these fishes to be the young fry of the tunny,

but Minafi, who has applied his observations very particularly to this branch of natural history, and has had innumerable opportunities of examining every circumstance relating to them, is positive they are quite a different fish, being without scales, whereas the tunny is covered with them. During the short winters of this latitude, the pelamides hide themselves in mud near the mouths of rivers.

Nothing can be more simple than the night nets laid by the fishermen; they are only a kind of basket made of the twisted branches of the myrtle, but are sufficiently strong to answer the purpose, and to capture great quantities of divers sorts of fish. Seals, which are not uncommon on this coast, break through these brittle toils with their teeth to devour the fish contained in them, and as I am credibly informed, often creep ashore, and eat the grapes that grow near the strand.

As soon as the tide began to serve, we hoisted anchor, and taking advantage of a breeze from the Sicilian coast, set up our sail, and shot across the bay of Gioia with great expedition; this favourable wind fell before morning, and reduced us to the necessity of making several tacks 'ere we could double Cape Vaticano: indeed, the crew were very unwilling to take to their oars while the sail could be of any service. This cape, famous for Sextus Pompeius's naval victory over Octavius, is not much elevated; it is composed of rocks that have more the appearance of hard clay than stone; I comforted myself
under

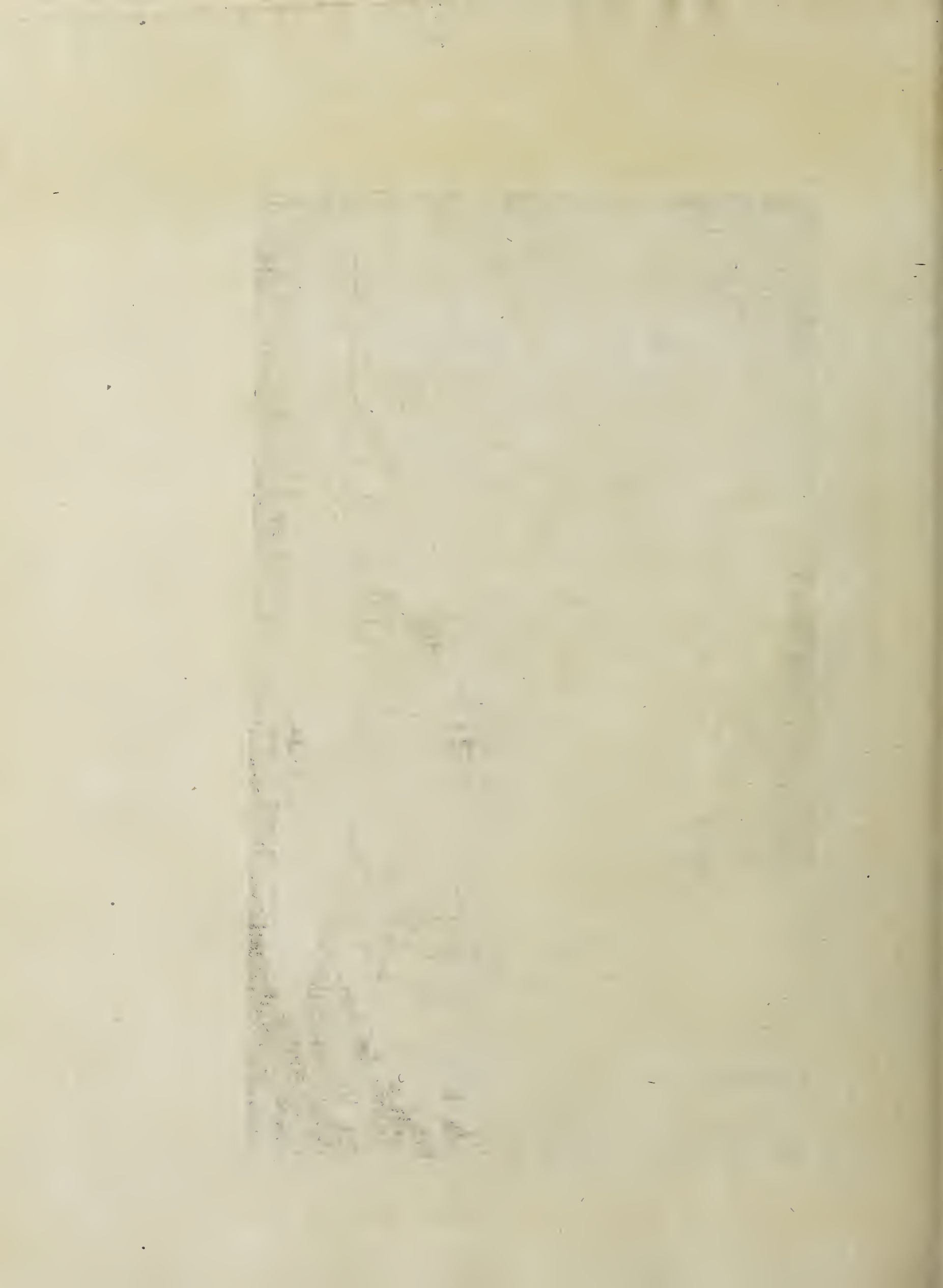
under the vexation of proceeding so slowly, with admiring the fiery operations of the island of Stromboli, that lay due west of us, at the distance of about sixteen leagues. It is a very blunt cone, and throws up fire from a huge orifice in its side.—The convulsions of this incessant projection of flames and other substances, have riven its summit almost in two, and destroyed so much of the soil that used to be cultivated, that the inhabitants can no longer procure subsistence. For this reason, many of them abstain from wedlock, and consequently their numbers decrease annually. They are a quiet inoffensive race, as I was informed from indisputable authority, and not, as some navigators have represented them, a set of savages, on whose inhospitable shore these authors durst not set their foot for fear of being murdered. When the wind comes from Scirocco levante, the whole mass of flames and smoke is, upon its issuing out of the crater, collected into a narrow cylindrical form, and blown along the surface of the sea for many leagues. The explosions intermit, and the inhabitants very dextrously seize the quiet moment to pass along the strand; if they mis-timed it, they would be buried under a shower of red hot stones.

With much difficulty we weathered the point of Tropea, and entered the noble gulf of St. Eufemia, which is near forty miles square; the wind springing up rather brisk, though not quite such as we wished, we boldly stood across in a direct northerly course, but it soon veered about to the
N. W.

N. W. and baffled all our attempts to make Cape Suvero. the steersman observing the gale from that quarter was increasing, and the difficulties of proceeding insurmountable, turned the helm about, and ran for the spiaggia of Tropea, where we moored under the shelter of a rock. In about an hour, as the weather was prodigiously clear, and the situation of our anchoring place closely defended from the wind, I was led to hope we might continue our voyage, at least by coasting round the gulf instead of striking across it. But no sooner had we sallied from our well-covered creek, than we found our boat tossed about by an impetuous contrary wind, which it was out of our power to resist; it therefore behoved us to return to Tropea; our bark was drawn ashore, and lodgings procured for me at a solitary convent of Minims, on a hill above the road, and some distance from the city.



View of TROPEA.



J O U R N E Y
T O
N A P L E S.

S E C T I O N LXI.

TR O P E A* is a bishop's see, containing four thousand inhabitants; the more wealthy class of people and handicraftsmen reside within the walls, the husbandmen and labourers dwell on the outskirts on the lands they cultivate. Its situation is admirable, on the point of a lofty rock impending over the sea, and joined to the main land by an isthmus that is almost cut through at the gates,

* Tropea derives its name from the trophies erected by Scipio on his triumphant return from Carthage, or by Sextus Pompeius after his naval victory off the neighbouring cape; but some authors draw it from the Greek word Τρεπω, *to turn back*, because this promontory drives back the tide to the Streights, and suffers it to proceed no farther north.

Tropea was long a manor of the family of Rufo. Upon the forfeiture of Anthony Centella, who married the heiress, Alphonsus the First united it to the crown.

and

and thus leaves only a small passage to the town. A little to the north lies a large island, on which some sheep are turned to graze, and a small one, with a hermitage placed upon its summit, in a most romantic position. The streets of Tropea are narrow, the houses high and built of stone, with great solidity. Two gates give admittance, one to persons coming up the hill from the bay, the other to such as approach along the high plain, on which there is a pleasant walk near two miles long. This level is half a mile broad between the sea and a chain of mountains so steep and rugged, that they seem to cut off all communication by land with the rest of Calabria. The whole flat, and the sides of the hills, yield abundance of grapes, mulberries, olives, pulse, vegetables and garden fruit: copious streams rush from the mountain, and after watering the orchards, are collected into one body, and turn a great number of mills: The method used in working the wheels is uncommon; the water is conveyed in a channel to the brink of a deep precipice over the mill, and there received into a stone well; by these means it falls a considerable height upon an overshot wheel, and having served the purpose of this first mill, is again collected in a similar manner, and turns several successive wheels till it reaches the sands. Some of these cascades are exceedingly beautiful, as they fall through arbours of vines and groves of orange-trees.

About

About two miles east of this city is a village called Paralia, inhabited by a race of manufacturers and mariners, who make cotton blankets, and carry them in their own barks to Marseilles and Genoa.

February the 10th.—Seeing no hopes of any change in the wind, as at this season of the year it frequently blows from the same quarter for several weeks together, I discharged my boat, and determined to pursue my journey to Naples by land.

I had had thoughts of it while at Messina, but was dissuaded from the project by the persons I consulted; they gave such an account of the lawless country I had to pass through, that they made a profound impression upon the servants; but I had seen too much of Calabria already to be so easily alarmed, and that consideration would have had little weight with me, if my faithful campiere and muleteer had not set off for Palermo upon my engaging with the French captain. I did not choose to trust myself with untried men and horses, especially as the Sicilians, tho' very fit guides to travel with in their own country, are not so proper for that purpose in Calabria, where they are looked upon with an evil eye.

The common people in Sicily have a very extraordinary idea of themselves; I should scarce venture to ascribe it to them upon the strength of my own observations, had they not been confirmed by those of many persons of long experience and acute judgment. The lower class of Sici-

lians generally seem to take it for granted, that a stranger thinks them both silly and knavish. In numberless instances they have begun their conversations with me by defending themselves against suspicions which I had not given the least hint of my entertaining; I am assured that at first a Sicilian is easily duped, but when once he has learnt experience at his cost, grows quickly a master in the art, able to retaliate with interest upon those that had over-reached him. A considerable number of banditti being hard pressed by the pursuits of justice, north of the Faro, passed into Sicily for safety; they joined a troop of Sicilian outlaws, whom they soon began to tyrannize over as a set of weak dastardly knaves. This usage sharpened the feelings of the Sicilians; many of the Calabrians, who grew negligent and unsuspicious, were separately destroyed, and the remainder were so reduced in number, that they had no alternative left but that of selling their lives as dear as they could; a resolution that rid the country of more malefactors in one year than all the tribunals would probably have done in ten. In actual service of danger the Calabrian outlaw is an over-match for the Sicilian; but his thoughts are not at all times equally bent upon mischief; the Sicilian, on the contrary, has no interval of humanity, when once he has abandoned himself to wickedness.

The post-houses, having an obligation only of keeping three horses, would not have been able to furnish me with

a sufficient number, as I must have had a post-boy with me from each stage; I therefore hired horses at Tropea to carry us in three days to Cosenza, where I was told I should meet with as many fresh ones as I wanted; the owners accompanied me on foot. We set out about noon, and ascended the mountains by a steep slippery road; as soon as we had gained the summit, we entered a large plain, where the highways are level and dry, tho' the soil of the fields is a clayey loam almost without any mixture of stones. The country resembles a park, being entirely uninclosed, but shaded by irregular avenues and straggling clumps of olive-trees of a size large enough to cut for timber. In four hours I reached Monteleone, a considerable town placed upon the brow of a hill facing the south, in a most incomparable situation; from the road I had long enjoyed the view of it. The baronial castle occupies the highest part, embowered in handsome tufts of deciduous and evergreen trees; the town crowns the rest of the slope in a very happy manner. The range of prospect is inimitable towards the gulf of St. Eufemia, and towards the Apennines on the east side not less enchanting: On that hand lies a charming woody vale, through which a river winds its way from the mountains; they are darkened with extensive forests; at their foot rise lesser hills, intersected by numberless glens, from the bosom of which ascends the smoke of many sequestered villages. A more chearful, or a richer landscape is no where to be

met with ; the noble extent of drives and walks that might be carried through these airy plains ; the great variety of country within reach, and the fineness of its climate would render Monteleone a most heavenly country residence for a great nobleman, if the Neapolitan nobility were ever to adopt the fashion of passing part of the year on their estates, and expending a portion of their income in improving and embellishing their demesne.

The duke of Monteleone (Pignatelli,) the richest subject in the kingdom, does not possess any great quantity of land hereabouts, though the manor, royalties and jurisdiction belong to him. His vassals have often struggled to cast off his yoke by seeking flaws in the sale or grant, by which his ancestors obtained possession of the fief, but they always have been baffled in the attempt : however, such is their persevering spirit, that they have again made an effort to carry their point, and obtain the advantage of being released from feudal subjection, and becoming once more part of the crown lands. A gentleman attached to the duke's party, with whom I had some conversation, informed me that this law-suit has been carried on near eight years, and that the burghers were in all probability no nearer their favourite object than they were the first day the cause was opened. The partial observations of this gentleman added fresh conviction to my sentiments concerning the evil tendency and pernicious effects of the feudal system. The burghers were the
subject

subject of his ridicule, not from any fault he found with their claim, but from their folly in contending with a lord of such mighty wealth and interest; he thought there was as much insolence and madness in their opposing the duke, as there would be in a cutter that should fire a broadside into a first-rate man of war; for money is here, as indeed in most countries, a most necessary instrument for conducting a law-suit; a plea advanced *in forma pauperis* admits of little prospect of a favourable sentence.

Monteleone was founded by Frederick of Swabia; under the Arragonian race it was alienated to the Pignatelli. It contains thirteen thousand inhabitants, as I was told, but this number appears too great for the size of the town. There are three parishes and twelve religious houses besides confraternities.

I was received at a convent of Minims with the greatest civility, though I had no claim upon them but my want of a lodging; their readiness to accommodate me was the more remarkable, as their house was at that time crowded with friars of the order from other convents assembled on account of an annual official meeting; there was not a cell to spare, but the worthy prior, a venerable monk of fourscore years of age gave up his own, and had his pallet carried to the room of another monk.

As I knew potatoes must be a rarity here, I invited the heads of the monastery to partake of my dinner, but no mode of dressing these roots, that I was able to direct, was
fortunate

fortunate enough to suit their palates: after the first mouthful, they all declined eating so insipid a dish. My man was more successful at the mess of the lay-brothers; for having covered the plate with oiled butter, mixed with a strong seasoning of pimento and garlick, his cookery met with universal applause.

I had intended to have devoted a day to the ruins of Hipponium or Valentia, situated at a place called Castello di Bivona, about six miles west of Monteleone, but the friars assured me I should find nothing to repay me for my trouble; that some vaults and subterraneous passages were the only vestiges of antiquity remaining; for that Earl Roger had carried away to his great church of la Trinita at Mileto all the columns belonging to the temple of Proserpine; that some pillars of fine marble had been dug up within the memory of man, and removed they knew not whither. * Hipponium was a settlement made by

* Cluverius is of opinion that Hipponium stood at Monteleone, and that Bivona was only its emporium, or port.

* Numi Hipponienses.

Ex Argento.

1. Cap. mul. diad.—Duplex cornucopiæ.

2. Idem cap. CÆSAR DICT. PERP.—Duplex cornuc. tæde VALENTIA.

Ex Ære.

1. Cap. Jovis ΔΙΟΣ—Vas cum stella et caduceo ΙΠΠΟΝΙΕΩΝ.

2. Cap. Apoll.—Minerva stans d. cor. s. hast. ten. ΑΝΔΙΝΑ ΙΠΠΟΝΙΕΩΝ.

4. Cap.

by the Locrians, and afterwards a colony of the Romans, by the name of Vibo Valentia. It is not an idle presumption to suppose that there was in it a temple dedicated to Proserpine; for tradition, and many passages of ancient poets pretend that the fair daughter of Ceres was wont to pass over from Sicily to the delightful plain of Hipponium to gather the flowers that spontaneously clothe its fertile surface, infinitely better situated for those tender productions of nature than the bleak rocks of Enna. Agathocles was some time in possession of Hipponium, and made it a station for his fleet; nothing is more likely than that he or his admirals should erect a temple in honor of the favorite goddess of their nation. This is the place which Cicero came to, when he absurdly quitted Rome, and fled from the attack of Clodius, instead of remaining in the city to justify his conduct during his consulship, and confound his enemies.

3. Cap. mul.—Cornuc. et caduc. ΙΙΙΙΩΝΙΕΩΝ.

4. Cap. mul. ΟC ΑΑΝΔΙΝΑ—Mulier sedens.

5. Cap. Pallad. gal.—Victoria alat. stans d. laur. s. bacul. t. ΙΙΙΙΩΝΙΕΩΝ.

6. Cap. id. L. CORANI C. NVMI Q.—Cornuc. cum fulmine VALENTIA.

7. Cap. muliebre S—Duplex cornu stella S. VALENTIA.

8. Cap. Jov. I.—Fulmen VALENTIA.

9. Cap. Palladis gal. et globuli—Noctua 4 glob. stella VALENTIA.

10. Cap. Apoll. 2 glob.—Lyra VALENTIA.

11. Cap. Herculis 3 glob.—Duplex clava 3 glob. stella VALENTIA.

S E C-

SECTION LXII.

TH E account of its present state was so discouraging, that I relinquished the project of visiting it, and next morning rose with the lark to pursue my journey. The road, which continued to be smooth and dry, lay across a chain of beautiful hills, overlooking the rich valley and romantic village of St. Onofrio, half hidden in the woods. On the coast I descried the town and fortress of Lo Pizzo, belonging to the dukes of Infantado, which was built to repress the insolence of the pirates that infested the gulf; but if I am rightly informed, the present inhabitants of the place are themselves the most lawless ferocious set of people in the whole province; there is a valuable tunny fishery belonging to it.

Upon leaving the hills, we crossed the river Angitola, which still retains the name given it in Antonine's Itinerary. There was little water in the bed, but its breadth and huge heaps of stones shew to what a dangerous height it rises in rainy seasons. In this plain Alphonfus the Second, while duke of Calabria, erected large sugar mills, and filled the level banks of the river with plantations of canes; this prince, though no great patron of elegant literature, was a strenuous encourager of arts, manufactures and agriculture, and we do him great injustice when we
consider

We travelled some miles near the sea through a marshy country. It is stocked with swine, of which I saw many very large herds attended each by one or two youths; they conduct their hogs by the sound of a great bagpipe, playing just what notes their imagination suggests. The excentric wildness of their music, their simple attire, long shaggy locks, and unconcerned vacant countenances, gave me the idea of beings as near the state of primitive nature as any savage in the most unfrequented deserts of the globe. I am persuaded the Calabrian swineherds of these days are exact copies of the ancient ones, and also that their mode of managing the stubborn animals entrusted to their care has been transmitted to them by a regular tradition; Polybius, who was an exact observer, says, that the Italians do not pen their swine up in sties, but lead them abroad to seek provender on the waste and in the forest; the keeper does not, as in Greece, follow and whip them on,

but walks before them, and occasionally sounds an instrument to call them forward; the swine keep near, and are perfectly well acquainted with its note, and even when by accident different herds are mixed together, one company of hogs will, at the blowing of their leader's horn, separate from the strangers, and with great impetuosity flock to their standard. I saw this very circumstance happen as I rode up to the Fondaco del * Fico, where we baited. I dined at the door of this solitary inn, under the shade of a venerable cork-tree, and from my seat enjoyed a view of the whole gulf; between it and the road is a swamp full of ponds that abound with water-fowl. Behind the house ends a forest of oaks and cork-trees, which covers a great part of the plain, and of the Apennine, surrounding a rich corn country, diversified with patches of olive-yards.

After dinner I passed along the skirts of these woodlands, in which I saw a great deal of well-grown timber, to the banks of the Amato, † a river that spreads itself over a large flat in fifty channels; it would overflow a still greater extent of country, if its devastations were not stopped by high cliffs on each side of its bed. In bad

* I take this to be the Fundus Sicæ, from which Cicero dates some of his letters to Atticus, during his exile. The situation corresponds with his route, and the present name bears a greater resemblance to the ancient one, than those of many places fixed by topographers from a similarity of sound, as the situations of former towns. Sicæ may be a mistake of the copiests for Ficæ.

† Anciently, Lametus.

weather this pass is esteemed very dangerous, as the waters are of a muddy white colour, and the bed full of deep holes worn in the clay, which a stranger has no suspicion of; the river was white when I crossed it, though no rain had fallen for some weeks, and no snow appeared on the mountains where it takes its rise: I therefore imagine this is the constant and natural hue of its streams. Our guides got up behind us to pass the river, and with extraordinary apprehension and vociferation pointed out to each horseman the precise direction he was to follow, and by a due attention to their instructions I and one of the servants traversed the plain without accident. The other by his own awkwardness, or the indocility of his horse, missed the track, and plunged over head in a deep but narrow pool, out of which he crawled without any mischief, but a thorough wetting.

At this point the chain of the Apennines that divides Italy lengthwise from the Punta dell' Armi is suddenly broken, and ends in low hills that open an intercourse between the two seas. North of these hills a transversal mass of mountains extends from west to east, where the continent of Calabria grows much wider; they communicate with two lines of lofty mountains which fall into them at right angles, and running from them towards the north, spread out afterwards so as to cover almost all the northern provinces of the kingdom. A continuation of these lines cuts the Roman state in two, divides Tuscany
L L L 2 from

from Umbria, and above Bologna taking a western direction, joins the Pennine Alps near the frontiers of France; so that after passing the Amato, I might have travelled to the utmost limits of Switzerland among the mountains without any interruption, but some vallies of no importance in so large a scale.

This is the narrowest part of Italy, and here the road from Naples by Puglia and Catanzaro crosses from the shore of the Ionic sea to that of the Mediterranean.

At this passage of the Amato we met a company of Greeks of both sexes belonging to a neighbouring village; their dress was remarkably tawdry, with a great deal of red and yellow; the women were much handsomer than the generality of Calabrian females. At the end of twenty-four computed miles we arrived at Nicastro, where I was accommodated with a room at the Dominicans. Its neighbourhood is replete with beauties of landscape—High woody mountains seem to block up all communication with any country farther north, while an easy passage opens towards the gulf of Squillace: the plain that lies to the south is diversified in the most luxuriant manner with corn fields, plantations of fruit trees, and ever-green groves; the nearer hills, brightened with verdure of many tints, are crowned with white buildings, that serve greatly to animate the prospect.—The town runs partly up a dell, and partly spreads itself out on the plain, intersected by the rapid wandering streams of a mountain torrent. These scenes
and

and the environs of Monteleone equal in beauty the most delightful spots in Sicily; and upon the whole, I think Calabria has greatly the advantage over that island in its general aspect.—In almost all the parts I visited, Sicily suffered from its want of wood and population; while no country abounds more in towns and villages, has a greater variety of culture, and is covered with finer forests than South Calabria.

None of the country people or travellers I met on the road from Tropea carried any arms, and yet, if credit is due to the repeated accounts I was stunned with, there is more occasion for them here than in Sicily, where every body travels armed.

The Calabrian accent is very different from the Sicilian, being more guttural, and fuller of aspirations.

* The castle of Nicastro is a romantic ruin, tottering above the bed of a roaring torrent that rolls below in a dark woody dale. Within these once solid walls, Henry, the rebellious son of the emperor Frederic the Second, was long imprisoned; frequent attempts to dethrone his father, and connections with the enemies of the state, justified his rigorous confinement; at first he was shut up with his wife and children in Rocca Felice of Puglia, but was afterwards transferred, for greater security, to Nicastro, and

* This manor was once possessed by the Marfanì, and in the fifteenth century a branch of the Caraccioli had it. It has long been vested in the house of Aquino, princes of Castiglione.

then

then to the neighbouring city of Martorano, where despair put an end to his existence; Boccaccio says that in a fit of frenzy he forced his horse to leap over a bridge, and was drowned in the river Savuto.

From the hill above the town the view extends over the whole country; the shore is incomparably fine, for at the water edge an easy acclivity begins, still rising in a beautiful wavy line, till it joins the Apennine. At the foot and along the slope, which is deeply furrowed with woody vallies, several towns and hamlets appear. Near that of San Biaggio, are warm baths of great efficacy in many diseases; their sulphureous quality shews the volcanic composition of those hills, and the proximity of subterraneous fires, which have often contributed towards converting this delicious country into a scene of desolation. Near this town stood St. Eufemia, that gave name to the gulf, and, till the year 1638, ranked among the most respectable towns in the province.—In that fatal year happened a most portentous event, feelingly related by father Athanasius Kircher, an eye witness, in the preface to his *Mundus Subterraneus*.

I shall here translate part of his narrative for the entertainment of my readers, as it enumerates almost every circumstance that usually fore-runs or attends earthquakes.

“ On the 27th of March 1638, we left the coast of
 “ Sicily at day-break; the sea was unusually agitated,
 “ and rolled in horrible whirl pools, more especially round
 “ the

“ the rocks of Scilla, famous for so many ship-wrecks; our
“ minds were struck with terror, but not ours alone, for
“ the hardiest mariner shuddered at the sight. When
“ we happily reached that part of the sea which lies be-
“ tween Lipari and Cape Vaticano, I viewed with great
“ attention the appearance of Etna and Stromboli; they
“ threw out immense volumes of smoke like mountains,
“ which, spreading over the southern horizon, soon hid
“ not only the Lipari islands but all Sicily from our view;
“ the horror of the scene was increased by subterraneous
“ groans and cracks, accompanied with a strong smell of
“ sulphur; these frightful sounds seemed to forebode the
“ catastrophe that was preparing for Calabria and Sicily.
“ Seized with dismay, we ran for Cape Vaticano, and
“ passed near Stromboli, without discerning that island,
“ which was involved in impenetrable clouds of smoke, but
“ our ears were stunned with loud reports, and our respi-
“ ration impeded by a strong sulphureous stench; though
“ all was perfectly serene and lulled in the air, the surface
“ of the sea was in a boisterous ferment, bubbling up like
“ boiling water, and the element appeared to undergo most
“ unusual alterations from its natural state. Whoever has
“ observed a pond during a shower of rain throwing up
“ innumerable bubbles, will be able to form a just idea of
“ this boiling of the sea. As we drew near to the Cape,
“ the same dreadful symptoms, still continuing, caused in
“ me a most uncommon oppression of spirits, and filled
“ me

“ me with a kind of prophetic feel of the approaching
 “ calamity. In this agony of mind, I loudly intimated to
 “ my companions that a violent shock of the earth was
 “ speedily to ensue, and that I dreaded much the approach
 “ of the Cape, lest we should be buried under the ruins of
 “ its cliffs, which I foresaw would be separated from the
 “ continent, and hurled into the deep. The event con-
 “ firmed my forebodings, for in about two hours, as we
 “ were afterwards informed, a mighty fragment of this
 “ promontory was separated from the land, and, with
 “ all the houses upon it, tumbled into the sea. Mean-
 “ while we continued our voyage, and landed safe and
 “ joyful at Tropea, little dreaming that the dangers
 “ we had escaped at sea were insignificant, compared with
 “ those that awaited us at land; we were deceived by the
 “ placid clear appearance of the heavens; for scarce had I
 “ passed the threshold of our college, when lo! to a dread-
 “ ful subterraneous noise like chariots rumbling along
 “ with the utmost velocity, succeeded so violent and hor-
 “ rible a concussion of the earth, that the college, the
 “ city, and the rock it stands on, shook backwards and
 “ forwards, as in a balance; the ground leaped upwards
 “ with such force, that from an inability of keeping my
 “ feet, I was thrown headlong on the floor: As soon as I
 “ recovered myself, I fled with precipitation down the
 “ hill to my boat, and put to sea. On the next day
 “ we reached La Rochetta, though the sea was rough and
 “ boisterous;

“boisterous ; but when we landed, the fever of the earth
“returned with fresh fury, and drove us back for safety
“to the boat ; we rowed on in search of some place of
“security, and scarce had we left the spot when the whole
“village of Rocchetta was levelled to the ground, and its
“inhabitants buried under the ruins.

“We landed beyond Lo Pizzo, but there our situation
“appeared more shocking than ever ; on one side the sea
“ran mountains high, on the other nothing was to be
“heard or seen but the destruction of towns and villages.
“I now cast an anxious eye back upon Stromboli, and
“found that it burnt with uncommon fury ; one sheet of
“fire covered its whole extent ; a more dreadful conflagration
“could not be seen. And now a dead kind of
“noise, like distant thunder, crept along the bowels of
“the earth, growing gradually stronger and stronger, till
“it reached the spot beneath our feet ; then indeed its
“quakings and noises were terrible beyond conception,
“and each man finding his feet no longer able to maintain
“his equilibrium, caught at the shrubs and twigs on
“the shore, lest, as he expected, his very limbs should be
“disjointed by the various and contrary motions of the
“basis he stood upon.

“When nature had recovered from this convulsion, and we
“rose again as from the grave to look once more up to the
“light of heaven, we cast our eyes towards the town of Saint
“Eufemia, whither we were bound, but in the place
VOL. II. M M M where

“ where we expected to find it, a dark cloud covered
“ every object; as it dispersed, instead of houses and
“ churches, nothing appeared but a fetid lake! Though
“ almost petrified with amazement, we hastened to seek some
“ survivor who might explain to us the phenomenon we
“ beheld; not one was to be met with, till at last we found
“ a youth sitting on the shore, stupified with terror; of
“ him we enquired the fate of St. Eufemia, but obtained
“ no answer, for fear, grief and despair had bound up his
“ powers of speech, and frozen his soul—No kind offers,
“ no soothing terms we could employ, were able to ex-
“ tort a word from him. Overpowered by sorrow, he
“ rejected with loathing the victuals we tendered, but just
“ had courage to extend his arm, and point to the place
“ where St. Eufemia stood. Thus dead to consolation,
“ with downcast looks, and the countenance of a man
“ distracted with sorrow, he walked from us, and hid
“ himself in the neighbouring thicket. We pursued our
“ route through many places amidst scenes of desolation,
“ and during a course of two hundred miles saw nothing
“ but ruined towns, inhabitants wandering about the open
“ fields, and persons almost senseless through dismay.”

SECTION LXIII.

THE road over the Apennines was reported to be so dangerous on account of the outlaws and robbers, that however doubtful the authority might appear to me, I thought it more advisable to yield to the persuasions of those I consulted, than run any hazards by rashness and obstinacy. I therefore applied to the commanding officer for two soldiers of the regiment of Fucilieri di Campagna to escort me to Cosenza; this is a corps of light infantry, armed and dressed after the fashion of the Catalonian miquelets; their uniform is yellow, their accoutrements light, and fit for desultory attacks; their persons well chosen, and proper for the duty. During the journey they entertained me with their feats and those of their fellow soldiers, and assured me that I should enjoy perfect security in their company, as no banditti dared to face them, or if they did, could escape from their fury. I was not the dupe of these bravadoes, being convinced that the outlaws have similar anecdotes to relate to the disparagement of the fucilieri. Indeed, if these soldiers are of any service to travellers, it must arise from the terror their name inspires, and the natural timidity that so often overcomes a man when he feels himself exposed to the resentment of offended laws; and certainly not from their watchfulness,

watchfulness, or military method of proceeding; sometimes they loitered behind out of my sight, at others gave their guns to the men on foot, and rode behind the servants; we were undoubtedly open to an attack at every hour of the day, if any thieves had been lurking near the road, and thought us a prize worth their attempting.

I left Nicastro before it was light on account of the great distance from Cosenza and the excessive badness of the road. We climbed up the mountain directly north of the town, and entered a thick forest; the trees near the plain are oaks, and above them chestnuts. As the dawn began to brighten by the time I reached the summit, I halted to relieve the horses, and to enjoy the view; when the light grew sufficiently strong to shew the landscape distinctly, it displayed a scene of exquisite beauty: the mountains advance in a gentle curve on each side, embracing a plain enriched and variegated with the choicest products of nature; a chain of less elevated mountains runs in a perpendicular line due south, rising by degrees till it loses itself in the snowy peaks of Aspramonte. The Ionian sea appeared through the intervals between the hills, and strongly reflected the rays of the rising sun, while the Mediterranean was yet involved in the last gloom of departing night, rapidly edging off on the approach of the sun-beams. Nothing but the consideration of the long journey I had to accomplish before night, could have torn
me

me so soon from a spot where so uncommon and delightful a picture was exhibited.

During a ride of fifteen miles we alternately clambered up, and slid down mountains after mountains through a tract of wood where the eye discerned no bounds. The timber is of a great size; some large openings in the forest are ploughed, but I saw no habitations, therefore suppose the husbandmen come from villages to till them. The surface of these mountains is a mixture of sandy loam and rotted vegetables; the stony strata underneath a micaceous shivery slate; in many parts strong traces of volcanical operations present themselves even to a hasty observer. The highest parts of this wild mountainous country had a slight covering of snow, which grows thicker towards the north-east, where the mountains rise that are called La Sila, known in antiquity by the name of the Brutian forest. Amidst the masses of snow I could distinguish large woods of pines or firs, which I conjectured by their form and dark hue to be of the silver kind. This forest covers a surface of two hundred miles in circumference; from hence Hiero, king of Syracuse, and after him, the Romans drew their masts and other timber for shipping; as ample a supply might still be furnished by the same forests, if required, but, except in turpentine and fuel, little benefit is derived from these extensive woods.

About noon we reached the summit of the most elevated point that lay in our route, and descended again for a long
2 space

space of time through wide groves of lofty chestnut-trees ; the branches met at top, and formed a thick canopy over our heads, while the bareness of their tall trunks, and the want of underwood gave full scope to the eye to wander on all sides, but without catching the least glimmering of light beyond the wood. Sometimes we suddenly came to a break in the forest, where a view opened upon us over bold mountains, woody vales, towns, villages, and a great extent of the Mediterranean sea. This change from gloom to light was frequently repeated, and always with new charms.

At last we came to a deep narrow dell, through which the river Savuto rushes furiously among rocks and precipices : The difficulties of this passage have been the cause of a bridge being thrown over the stream, a convenience very uncommon in Calabria. Here I perceived with a great deal of uneasiness that one of the servants who rode foremost had missed his road, and was not to be seen, though the country was now quite open, being planted with vines. We separated, and filled the forest with shouts in hopes of making him hear us ; while the whole company was dispersed in search of him, I left my horse in the valley, and climbed up the opposite rocks in order to discover which road he had taken, but to no purpose. Being overcome with thirst, I went down to the river, and was about to drink, when a hoarse voice called to me with great vehemence ; on turning round, I perceived very near me half a dozen
ill-

ill-looking fellows, and two women sitting under a rock round a kettle; this appearance was rather alarming, but I soon recollected myself sufficiently to know, that if there was any danger, I had then no means of escaping from it. I therefore put the best face I could upon the matter, and walked up to them to ask the reason of their calling me, one of the men immediately jumped up, and presenting a skin of wine, desired me to drink of it, for at this season of the year the waters of the Savuto are nothing but melted snow, and extremely unwholesome. I accepted the proffered draught, and after a little conversation about himself and company, and fruitless enquiries concerning my lost servant, tendered him some money for the wine, but he refused to take any, and bringing me my horse, wished me a good journey. These were travelling tinkers, probably gypsies; their looks and dress made them very unpleasant objects to meet with in so savage and solitary a place.

All my attendants being reassembled without having discovered where the man had wandered, I proceeded to Rogliano, a town where I proposed to dine, and to stay till I could gain intelligence of him; but just as the fucilieri and some countrymen were falling forth to renew the search, he arrived in a most piteous condition—It seems he had followed a straight path, which leads to a ford in the river, only used in summer, and not being much accustomed to mountain torrents, he had injudiciously plunged into the water in a
strong

strong rapid part, much deeper than he expected ; there his horse had fallen, and with great difficulty recovered himself so as to be able to carry him through to the opposite bank, after being repeatedly dipped in the water. The fright and cold had deprived him for a considerable time of every sense, and rendered our shouts of no avail ; at length, after wandering backwards and forwards along the hill, the horse had found the high road, and brought him terrified and shivering to the town.

Rogliano afforded little provision for us or provender for our horses ; all we could procure for them was a sack of chestnuts, and for ourselves some hard cheese and four bread. The chestnuts of this district are remarkably sweet, being gathered from grafted trees.

After dinner we rode eight miles to Cosenza, which from the badness of the way I esteem equivalent to as many leagues ; nothing can be worse, it destroyed all the pleasure I might have tasted from a view of one of the finest tracts of land in Europe. As the large timber trees have stifled all underwood, the face of the country resembles a magnificent park surrounded by well-wooded hills and mountains ; on every hill is a village or casale, all depending upon the jurisdiction of Cosenza, and enjoying a participation of its municipal privileges. The guides eagerly pointed out one of these villages called Celico, which they said had the honour of giving birth to Padre Joachino, a great Santo and Savio. I was at a loss to
divine

divine whom they could mean, but learnt next day from a monk, that the person alluded to was the Abbot Joachim, famous in the history of the twelfth century for his prophecies and his frequent interference in the politics of the times. He pretended to have had the knowledge of the scriptures infused into him by miraculous visions, and to be able to interpret the most difficult parts of sacred writ; the book of revelations was his favourite field of enquiry. Our Richard the First sent for him to Messina, in order to question him concerning the event of the expedition he was embarked in against Palestine; but this acute and free-thinking monarch, who was a disciple of the Troubadours, and initiated into their science, put so many difficult queries to the prophet, that he was confounded and detected in various contradictory assertions; the prelates and courtiers imitated their master in ridiculing the visionary, and sent him back with disgrace to his Calabrian convent, where he died in 1202. But it would have been a miracle indeed, if he had wanted believers in that credulous century; however slightly great men and strangers might treat Joachim, his countrymen comforted him by paying the utmost deference to his oracles; he is still held among them a mirror of sanctity and wisdom, and strong trust is reposed in his prophecies; a book is attributed to him, which contains a regular succession of the popes since his time down to the day of judgment, marked by epithets

characteristical of pontiffs yet unborn. * From the badness of the clayey road, and many causes of delay, it was very late before I reached Cosenza, the capital of hither Calabria. I was lodged at the Dominican convent in the suburbs, and loaded with attention and civilities. A very heavy rain fell during the whole night and the ensuing day, which induced the horse-hirers, with whom I had made an agreement as soon as I arrived, to recede from their bargain, being apprehensive that the extraordinary stay they should be obliged to make in various places on account of inundations, would reduce their profits in our agreement to nothing. The weather was so wet, I could hardly steal an hour to walk into the town, but the good fathers kept me constant company at home, and being many of them men of education and learning, made me pass my hours in an agreeable and profitable manner.

SECTION LXIV.

UNDER the uncertainty of being able for some time to procure a proper conveyance from Cosenza to Naples by the usual road, I agreed to accompany two friars

* St. Malachy, archbishop of Armagh in the twelfth century, is said to have drawn up the same foretelling catalogue, enigmatically describing each future pontiff, according to the order in which he was to fill the chair of St. Peter. This list was invented by some members of the conclave held in

friars the first fair day to Paula. They expected to find there a felucca for Naples, and as the wind was now changed, made no doubt of a speedy passage thither.

They provided me with a horse, and were to send back a messenger for my servants, in case the bark should be arrived.

The 14th being free from rain, we ventured to set out ; our ride did not exceed fifteen miles, but the country being mountainous, rendered our motions very slow. As soon as we came in sight of the sea, the prospects that opened all around were such as gave me reason to rejoice in the resolution I had taken to make this excursion.

On our arrival at Paula we found that no felucca had been heard of, and the wind and weather looked so unpromising for a sea voyage, that I instantly renounced the scheme, and determined to return to Cosenza on the morrow. The remainder of the day was devoted to the curiosities of Paula, a place famous for the birth of Saint Francis, the founder of an order of mendicant friars called Minims.

He was a peasant's son, and was at first treated in his own country with much contempt ; but as he was a

in 1590 ; it is replete with mistakes relative to the popes that intervened between the æra of Malachy and the sixteenth century, and has been most awkwardly tortured to make out the popes that have reigned since that conclave ; but, by a curious effect of chance, Pius the Sixth answers to the motto of *Peregrinus Apostolicus*, the apostolic pilgrim.

man not only of an austere life, but also of a most humane meek disposition of mind, he became in time an object of veneration, and his reputation for sanctity diffused itself over Italy, and many foreign countries: Lewis the Eleventh, king of France, who made up in cunning and superstition what he wanted in courage and morality, was persuaded that the intercession of this Calabrian hermit would prevail upon the Almighty to prolong his baneful existence. Francis, by order of the pope, though broken with extreme old age, suffered himself reluctantly to be dragged to the court of France, where his simplicity afforded an ample fund of ridicule to the profane; he was known by the name of the Bonhomme; the Bonhomme was not however so simple or so false as to flatter the king with any hopes of a cure; he bluntly told him he could do his body no good. The monarch, oppressed with terror, and a load of accumulated enormities, was obliged to relinquish the hopes of life, and try with the Minim's help to make up the best accounts he could for the inspection of the stern Judge, before whom he was shortly to appear. Francis died at Tours in 1507, and was canonized twelve years after; he soon became the favourite saint and patron of his native country. The Calabrians continue to have unbounded confidence in his mediation, but their mode of applying to him for favours is extraordinary; they approach his statue with reverential awe, holding in both hands an ass's halter; this they suddenly throw over the

head of the statue, and after fixing the slip knot with a smart pull, repeat their petition, and leave the rope: I think there was two hundred weight of rope on its shoulders when I saw it. This founder, who prescribed the most rigorous abstinence from meat to all his spiritual children, and even allowed it but sparingly to the sick, purchased a small stock of pigeons for the use of the infirmary: as they are seldom killed for that purpose, and held as sacred by all the neighbourhood, these birds have in near three centuries multiplied to an incredible degree, and become very serious destructive nuisances. They fly in large flocks, and cover the roof of the monastery: under the protection of the saint they enjoy the most undisturbed tranquillity; the common people believe that several rash sportsmen and greedy cooks, who have dared to lay their sacrilegious hands on these doves, have been punished in a most severe miraculous manner; some farmers go so far as to sow plots of ground for them, but it is from a selfish, not from a devout motive; for they are persuaded that the pigeons of Saint Francis have too much honour to meddle with any seed but what is allotted them, unless such allotment be neglected to be made for them.

In the kingdom of Naples it is not as in many other parts of Europe, where the lord of the manor has an exclusive right to erect a dovecote; here every land-holder may build one if he pleases, and agree with his neighbours.

bours about the damages his flock may commit. I have heard that some barons have arrogated the power of prohibiting all persons to shoot them, either out of caprice, or a desire of preserving the breed, which in some districts is almost destroyed, because every purchaser of a royal permit kills all that comes in his way.

Paula belongs to the family of Spinelli, and is situated in a most romantic country of woodland and cultivated ground. Noble rocky eminences tower above, crowned with aged timber; the coast lies boldly expanded at their feet. The convent of Minims stands in the same wild spot, where Francis had fixed his original solitary cell amidst caves, and under impending cliffs, out of which a copious stream gushes with great impetuosity. The bay produces a great quantity of coral.

The friars, being determined to wait for the boat, put me under the care of a lay-brother, who was going to Cosenza. We travelled with only one horse betwixt us, and therefore rode by turns; but about five miles from Paula an accident separated us in the middle of a wood, and it was lucky for me that it was my turn to ride, or otherwise I must have walked to Cosenza. The friar had upon our setting out begun a relation of the cruel deeds of some renowned robbers of South Calabria, which I listened to with particular attention, as I found a difficulty in comprehending his provincial dialect. Thus absorbed in narrative we were pursuing our journey along a winding hollow

hollow way, shaded by the twisted roots of aged oaks that almost met over our heads, when behold at the turn of the road a man armed with gun and pistols started suddenly upon us. My companion, whose imagination was at that moment disturbed with the idea of the barbarities he was describing, gave a loud shriek, darted into the wood, and instantly disappeared, leaving me to the mercy of the assassin. I had not time to be much terrified, for the man immediately let me know he was only a *sbirro* of a neighbouring baron returning from Paula. We endeavoured to call back the lay-brother, but he either never heard us, or did not chuse to trust himself in our company; so having lost all hopes of finding him, I continued my journey with the guard, who escorted me to a hamlet, from whence I had a sight of Cosenza, and there left me, as I was no longer in any danger of losing my way. On my arrival at the convent, I found horses had been provisionally engaged to carry me in four days to Evoli.

SECTION LXV.

C O S E N Z A, now the see of an archbishop, and residence of the *preside* or governor of the province, was the capital of the Brutian state, and of some consequence during the second Punic war; the Saracens reduced it to ashes in the tenth century, but by the munificence

nificence of its prelates it soon recovered from the calamity. Lewis the Third of Anjou, adopted by Joan the Second, died here in 1434, and lies buried in the metropolitan church. He was a prince of a mild unambitious disposition, though not deficient in courage or military abilities; he bore with patience the caprices of the old queen, and the insults of her wicked favourites, and when he died, was sincerely regretted by all ranks of people: even Joan herself, though her feelings were deadened by vicious habits, and the imbecillity of age, shed tears at his premature fate, but grief was of momentary duration in her callous soul. The Calabrians were particularly affected with the loss of so virtuous and benevolent a master, under whose administration their province had enjoyed uncommon happiness; happiness of double value from a comparison with the horrors of civil war and discord still fresh in their memories. The goodness of Lewis was not soon forgotten, but remained long deeply impressed in the hearts of the natives, who ever after retained a partiality for the Angevine and French cause. This attachment excited the vengeance of the Arragonian party, who committed shocking outrages at Cosenza in the year 1457. Earthquakes have been very destructive here. The number of its inhabitants is said in some printed lists to reach eighteen thousand, but, from the information I procured, it does not much exceed half that quantity.

Cosenza

Cosenza is pleasantly situated about twelve miles from the Mediterranean sea, at the southern extremity of a spacious plain, which upon a considerable breadth extends above twenty miles down the course of the river Crati. The city stands upon seven hills, which form part of its armorial coat; at the foot of the declivity the Crati, coming from the eastern vallies of the Sila, receives the waters of the Basiento; this torrent is remarkable for containing within its bosom the bones of Alaric, the mighty leader of the Visigoths. Here in 422 death put a period to his victories, and saved mankind from many intended ravages; his faithful soldiers, having no wish of settling in this country, and fearful lest after their departure any indignity should be offered to the relics of their hero, turned off the waters of the Basiento, and in the middle of its bed dug a deep grave, in which they deposited his body with many rich trophies and spoils of conquered nations. The waters were then let into their former channel; the workmen who had been employed were put to death, and by these means the tomb of Alaric remains hidden perhaps for ever from human sight and insult.

From an ancient castle on the highest part of the hills the prospect is very grand over the mountains on three sides, and down the plain on the other. The low grounds are fertile in an eminent degree, but from their situation and frequent waterings, exhale vapours in summer that constitute a *Mal' Aria* very productive of fevers.

There is a visible difference in the dress and manners of the two Calabrias: the inhabitants of the south part resemble the Sicilians, and like them the men wear bonnets; north of Rogliano, the boundary of the provinces, hats are universally worn. A learned friend of mine, a native of Italy, and long resident in various parts of the two Sicilies, thinks the Sicilians even now betray strong marks in their character of their ancient connections with the Africans; that the North Calabrese have a great deal of German solidity in their disposition, arising perhaps from colonies transplanted thither by the Swabian princes: He finds the most evident traces of Grecian manners and turn of mind in the southern Calabrese, and in the Neapolitans, but much more evident in the latter. He looks upon the Abruzzese as little altered from the appearance and character of their Samnite ancestors, except the slight change operated by a mixture of Lombard blood.

Though Calabria is in bad repute as to safety for travellers, the people seem perfectly honest towards one another; for their houses have no bolts or bars to the door, and during the owner's absence, are left to the mercy of every passenger.

The Dominicans were very unwilling to let me depart without a guard of fucilieri, but as I had experienced their inutility, I positively refused them. However, at the earnest request of my hosts, I accepted of the loan of two muskets and two sabres, which the guide was to bring back;

back ; the many accounts of robberies and murders I had received gave me some degree of uneasiness, and made me make the best disposition I could in case of an attack. The guide went first, armed with one of the guns, the two servants formed the centre with the swords, and I brought up the rear with the rest of the arms : Before the sun had been risen an hour, our apprehensions vanished entirely, and we rode along the charming plain without any further attention to our military arrangements.

We travelled six miles through a fruitful country covered with corn, vines and mulberry-trees, inclosed all round by beautiful hills, the city of Cosenza and the white peaks of the Sila shutting in the scene behind us ; the Crati flowed on our right hand at the foot of a chain of hills, but hidden from our sight by a thick fringe of wood ; we then entered a thicket, and forded the river. It was rapid and clear notwithstanding the preceding rains, and came up to the horses girth ; eight sturdy fellows attended on the shore, and stripping stark naked walked through the water on each side of every horse, in order to point out the safest passage, and to prevent the violence of the current from carrying it too far down the stream : About a mile lower we repassed the Crati in the same cautious manner. The eminences on both sides of the plain are populous and well-wooded ; the towns stand on the highest points ; among the principal ones in view towards the Mediterra-

nean are Montalto, famous for a native salt mine;* La Regina, so called from Margaret, the wife of king Lewis of Anjou, having resided there; and S. Marco, an episcopal city.

On the eastern hills is Bisignano, which gives the title of prince to the last remaining branch of the ancient house of Sanseverino, long the leader in all civil contests, and often the disposer of the Neapolitan crown. This family begins its pedigree with one Trogisus of Normandy, to whom Robert Guiscard gave in 1080 the lordship of S. Severino in the principality of Salerno. His descend-

* The salt at this place is cut out of a solid mass, and forced down by damming up water above, and then letting it fall upon it with violence; a method called *bushing* in the lead mines in some parts of England. This process is very detrimental to the grounds that lie below the hill.

I take one of these towns to be Pandosia, where Alexander, king of the Molossians, was slain by some Lucanian exiles, as he was crossing the river Acheron, after the defeat of his army.

The face of the country, and its vicinity to the limits of Brutium and Lucania, justify the conjecture. I have in my possession two small gold coins found in these plains, that seem to have been struck by that prince—*Caput radiatum à fronte. Fulmen AAEE.*

There are some coins of Greek type struck at Pandosia, which some medallists have attributed to a city of the same name in Epirus.

Ex Argento.

1. Cap. Solis à fronte—Tripus ΠΑΝΔΩΣΙΕΩΝ.
2. In tab. quadr. Bos cap. reflexo ΓΑΝΔΩ—Tripus $\odot$ PO. I think this belongs to Croton.
3. Cap. Cybeles turrit. ΠΑΝΔΩΣΙΕΩΝ.—Cap. Martis ΠΑΝΔΩΣΙΕΩΝ.

ants

ants acquired prodigious wealth, and at different periods possessed half the fiefs in the kingdom, with every kind of honourable titles: Unfortunately for them, they enlisted under the papal banner in opposition to their sovereign Frederic the Swabian, for which defection they were persecuted with implacable vengeance. One single boy escaped from the massacre of all his kindred, and lived to be the second founder as it were of his race; after many years exile, he re-entered the kingdom with the army of the count of Provence, and at the battle of Benevento had the bloody shirt, in which his father was slain, carried before him as a banner for his partisans. Charles the First restored him to all his honours and estates, and even added more to the already huge amount; these benefits attached the Sanseverinos to the house of Anjou, and rendered them to the last the mortal enemies of the rival family of Arragon. With the powerful protection of the monarch they attained the highest honours of the state, and rose to a degree of preponderance that was scarce inferior to that of the sovereign. Under Joan the First their disputes with the Marfani involved Naples in a civil war, which ended by the destruction of their adversaries. Ladislaus proved their bitter enemy in revenge for their adherence to the faction of Anjou, but during the reign of his sister they regained their consequence; from Ferdinand the First they extorted a grant of the principality of Salerno, but not thinking themselves bound by the present, pre-
served

served in their hearts a firm attachment to the French party, and always appeared to bear the Spanish yoke with impatience. Ferrante, the last prince of Salerno, rebelled against the emperor Charles the Fifth, was outlawed, and died in exile. The branch of Bisignano also failed in 1606, and great litigations ensued; at length the estates were divided by a compromise, and Bisignano was assigned to a distant male relation; the remainder of the inheritance being adjudged to some female kinswomen.

After a journey of twenty two miles down the plain without having even a hillock to ascend, we stopt for dinner at a poor solitary public-house not far from the town of Tarfia: This place belongs to the Spinelli, and stands high among some very bare hills north of the river; here the Crati turns suddenly to the east, and after forcing its way through a pass in the mountains, runs across the wide plain of Sybaris to the gulf of Tarento.

After dinner we altered our course, and travelled in an oblique line towards the gulf of Policastro over some high land, from whence I enjoyed many fine views of the coast of Corigliano. We soon after entered an immense forest that covers a flat country inclosed with woody hills, studded with villages. Oak predominates, but grows feebly, and deserves the name of coppice wood, not timber; numerous flocks of sheep are fed here, but the shepherds have no dwellings in these plains; their provisions are brought upon mules from their abodes many miles distant.

They conduct their flocks by the sound of a bagpipe, the same instrument with which some of them repair to Naples at Christmas.

Leaving this woodland tract, we entered the higher mountains; amongst them Monte Pollino distinguished itself by the deep snow with which its summit was yet covered. It is renowned for the excellency of its pasturage, and for the Caggiocavallo cheese of its district, esteemed the best in the kingdom; this cheese is made in an oblong form, not unlike a horse's head, draws out like filk, and is much relished by the natives, but has a strong acrid taste very unpleasant to strangers. No part of the country produces a greater variety of rare plants; here is found in abundance the root of mushrooms, commonly called *fungifer lapis*; it is not a stone, but a number of different particles of stones, wood and marle cemented together by a larger quantity of a black rich earth: This mass, if covered with a little fresh soil, and watered with warm water, will produce a mushroom in a few days; I have several large specimens in my possession. On the most elevated part of this mountainous country we passed through S. Basile, a settlement of Albanian Greeks, which overlooks the delightful vale, and large burgh of Castrovillari. Every thing here bears the marks of a volcanical origin; the road is a heap of cinders, the large and small eminences in view are all of a conical shape, double pointed, and broken down on one side: one of the largest is

is very particularly characterized; it stands quite insulated, is regularly sloped on each flank, shagged at the summit, and from top to bottom clothed with thick woods: it is not possible to imagine a more beautiful hill. Whoever has visited the Cumberland lakes, must recollect the round knoll at the extremity of Ulsewater, called Dunmollin; it is a diminutive copy of the Calabrian mountain I am describing. The soil near S. Basile resembles the white clay, of which the inside of the Solfatara di Puzzuoli is composed; every stone is a mere mass of lava.

A rough narrow path leads round the mountain into a long valley well planted and improved, locked in on every side by peaked mountains, except to the south, where the handsome volcanic cone just mentioned rises, but without excluding a view of the distant country: On the north the snowy ridge of Pollino towers above the rest. Our day's journey ended at Murano, * a large town pleasantly situated on the rapid slope of a high hill; my guide procured me an excellent apartment at a friend's house, where every thing was warm, clean and comfortable.

* Murano successively belonged to the families of Aquino, Scaglione, and Fasanella; on the forfeiture of the last, it was bestowed by Ferdinand the First upon San Severino, prince of Bisignano. It has long been in the possession of the Spinelli.

SECTION LXVI.

FE B. 17th, after an hour's ascent by a rocky road called la Rocca perrupata, we entered the Campo Temese, a large circular plain encompassed by mountains, which are covered with beech woods. The level was sown with rye, called in Calabria Germano, because it was brought into the country from Germany; Charles the Fifth in his progress through this province, as he returned from his Moorish expedition, taking notice that many large tracts of good land remained unimproved because their elevated situation rendered them too cold for wheat, gave orders that a more hardy species of grain should be imported from the north; to his paternal attention Calabria is indebted for this additional supply of food.

In a corner of this amphitheatre is a convent of capuchins, who succour and harbour travellers that happen to be surprized by a fall of snow, or are benighted in this high and lonely region. The name of the place is derived from the ancient city of Tempfa, but where this city stood remains a doubt, whether near St. Eufemia, as Cluverius places it, or rather at Malvito, near St. Marco, where Barrius with much greater probability has fixed it: Strabo says it was the nearest town of consequence to the Lucanian boundary, and that in its territory a temple was

erected to Politas, a companion of Ulysses murdered there by the Barbarians ; a neighbouring village called Policastriello may be thought to retain some traces of the name.— The Campo Temese was probably the property of the corporation of Tempfa, and was originally, if I may reason from analogy and a hasty survey, the crater of a volcano. The decomposition of its mountainous border has in a course of ages raised the soil of the basin : The scala or pass by which we entered, was the crack where the lava, and perhaps afterwards the water, was discharged, for most craters when they cease to burn, become lakes, till the frail crust that contains the contents gives way, and leaves the bottom dry. On the surrounding hills holly grows in great abundance ; I do not remember to have seen it south of this spot. At the northern foot of the mountain we passed a torrent, and entered the province of Basilicata. The mountains here are covered with immense quantities of fine oak-timber, which is suffered to decay with age, without any benefit accruing to mankind from its long standing and valuable properties, except affording acorns for the nourishment of innumerable herds of swine. The sea is not above six miles off, a trifling distance when compared with the advantages that might be derived from the sale of such sizeable timber ; the vallies are wide enough to admit of a way down to the shore in summer. The expence would no doubt be considerable, but the object well deserves such an exertion ; for all the dockyards in Europe

rope might be supplied from the forests of this peninsula, and I see no reason to doubt of the compactness and soundness of the wood. General Acton, secretary of state for the marine department of Naples, has turned his views this way, and cut some wood in the southern extremity of Calabria for the use of the royal navy; but the natives are averse to these projects, as the weight of felling and transporting the timber falls very hard upon them, without their receiving what they deem a proper equivalent for their severe labour, great loss of time, and destruction to their draught cattle. As the minister cut the above-mentioned woods by way of essay, if the experiment answers, he will no doubt proceed hereafter upon a regular plan, in which the interests of the public and of individuals will be consulted; without such a fair and wise arrangement, I am certain the expence of carrying on this work will be so enormous as to ruin it; a thousand artificial obstacles will be thrown in the way; incredible waste and unavoidable fraud will be daily committed; I say nothing of the injustice and oppression that would attend a partial mode of conducting the undertaking, because general Acton, who is descended from English ancestors, has too great an idea of general liberty and the rights of mankind, to entertain a thought of enriching one part of the community at the expence of the other.

The women of these mountains wear red veils; their stockings, and indeed most of their apparel is of the same

colour, which I believe is died with a bolar earth, that appears in the sides of many broken banks near the road.—It is a coarse colour approaching to brown.

We passed through La Retonda, a town belonging to the prince of Bisignano; it is most singularly placed on the summit of a rock.—The houses seem to cling all round it in clusters, as barnacles do upon a stone. The view from it northward is amazingly grand over the vale of St. Martino, watered by the river Lao.—A long chain of mountains, rising rapidly from both seas, extends from hence over all the central provinces. The banks of the river are populous and well-cultivated. This valley is thought by some experienced observers of the alterations and various forms assumed by nature in consequence of earthquakes, to have been at some distant period of time a large lake; which was formed by the mountains on each side crumbling into the narrow dale, and stopping the course of the river, till a subsequent shock gave liberty to the confined waters, and left only faint traces of the wear that had dammed up the passage. Visible marks of such revolutions have frequently occurred to me in my travels through mountainous countries.

The descent from La Retonda was very bad, wet, and narrow. A string of loaded mules, that we met coming up the mountain threw us into great confusion and danger, for those obstinate animals will neither stop nor give way easily,

easily, and, for want of room, we found it very difficult to pass them.

Having crossed the Lao, we rode through Castelluccio, a double town; one part is agreeably situated on a rocky eminence, with a declivity that shews all the houses, as if they were upon terraces; the other part is built at its foot, amidst a delightful tract of fields, rich in vines and fruit-trees, and bounded by rows of towering oaks; each vineyard has two large tubs under a pent-house, where its proprietor makes his own vintage separately. The hedges glowed with the first flowers of spring, and the little birds announced on all sides, by their gay concerts, the approach of that all-reviving season. We soon after entered another spacious forest, with timber still larger than that I saw before; the ride through these venerable groves over very uneven ground afforded a most admirable variety of prospect, : high up the mountain, at the foot of a rugged peak, we passed close to a small deep lake, fed by a strong runner from above, but I could not discover any vent for the discharge of the waters; I suppose they flow under ground for some time till they burst out at the head of a valley, and give birth to a rivulet.

I dined at Lauria which is also a double town: The high part stands upon a lofty precipice immediately over the low one; by their situation, both are exposed to fatal accidents; one from the danger of losing its foundation, the other from the possibility of the cliffs splitting and overwhelming

whelming it; such events have sometimes happened. When the idea of this peril does not occur, it is scarce possible to conceive a more delightful position; the views are sublime, for it overlooks a world of well wooded mountains, numberless narrow but fertile vales, and a great part of the gulf of Policastro. Our evening journey was extremely disagreeable, as it lay among woods and deep hollows, and at last along the bed of a torrent full of large stones and holes that endangered our necks at every step. The horses were good, and accustomed to the roads, and brought us safe to Lagonero, though we had travelled the last two hours in utter darkness.

Lagonero takes its name from a large morass that has been long drained; the vapours of it were almost pestilential. The country is desolate and poor, but the continual thoroughfare gives life to the town, and enables about eight thousand people to earn a comfortable maintenance by a variety of trades. I lodged at a very good inn in a room furnished with as much magnificence as a palace. The elbow chair and bed were of crimson damask, laced with gold, bought many years ago at the sale of a cardinal who died on the road. A large brasiero or pan of coals placed in the middle of my room, a good supper and excellent bed made amends for a tedious, dark and cold ride: I found myself in a high atmosphere, and felt a degree of cold which I had not experienced before in my whole tour.

The

The road next morning was execrable through a hilly forest amidst mountains tipped with snow. Beech abounds here, generally growing very high up the mountain: In less elevated places evergreens and common oak are more plentiful; of the last sort the groves are admirable, but half the trees are ruined by lopping; the ground is strewn with trunks fallen, and decayed merely through age.

Upon leaving the woods we followed the course of the river of Casalnuovo down a narrow defile, till it brought us out into the great vale of Diano, near twenty miles in length. Its shape resembles a shuttle, narrow at both ends, and wide in the middle; the mountains on each side gradually opening from the extremities, while the river Negro, the ancient Tanager, divides it in its whole length. The fertility of this vale is renowned throughout the kingdom, but its unwholesomeness in summer takes off from its merit. Corn and flax cover the ground as long as it keeps a level high enough to be out of the power of inundation; lower down rice is cultivated, as the rich depth of soil and the copious supplies of water rushing on all sides from the hills, or drawn from the river, encourage the farmers to raise this plant in preference to any other. On the points and eminences round the plain are many towns that give additional spirit to this charming landscape; La Padula is one of its grand features; an ancient castle on a round detached hill, some tall cypresses rising up
2 among

—among the buildings on the slope, and at the foot an immense monastery of Carthusians, form a very noble mass of objects. This was once an estate of the Sanseverini, but in 1308 one of the family founded the convent, and assigned this lordship and some others for its support. The wealth of these monks has been much increased since that time by donations and œconomy; the prior is treated like a prince, and rules his vassals with the double sway of feudal authority and religious influence. The monastery is one of the largest and grandest of the order of St. Bruno.

I dined at La Sala, an extensive town on the skirts of the plain; the profusion of white marble surprised me; the fountains, watering troughs, window and door cases, even the steps into the houses are of an even-grained clear marble, which appeared to me to be antique. I suppose these are fragments of the buildings that anciently composed an episcopal city called Marcelliana—it must have stood near La Sala.

The valley now grew again contracted, and near La Polla, where I slept, seems almost shut up. This is a town of three thousand inhabitants, belongs to the Capeci, and was almost destroyed by an earthquake in the sixteenth century. The inn is on the opposite side of the river, and at it is collected the toll for passing from one province to another. In the wall is inserted an inscription, which by its style appears to belong to the time of the Roman republic.

republic. Gruter, and many other collectors of inscriptions have copied it, all varying from each other, and from the original.* It was made to commemorate the public actions of a Prætor, whose name does not appear, but was probably Manius Aquilius; he made or repaired the consular road from Capua to Reggio, three hundred and twenty four miles, built bridges, placed mile stones and horseblocks, and was also the first to encourage the division of common pastures. What a pity it is that some such active intelligent minister does not spring up in Naples, and open proper communications between the different countries that constitute the kingdom. Though a Roman magistrate, with the treasure of such a commonwealth and legions of laborious soldiers at his disposal, was equal

* VIAM FECEI A REGIO AD CAPVAM ET
IN EA VIA PONTEIS OMNEIS MILLIARIOS
TABELLARIOSQVE POSEIVEI HINCE SVNT
NOVCERIAM MEILIALI CAPVAM XXCIII
MVRANVM LXXIIII COSENTIAM CXXIII
VALENTIAM CLXXX AD FRETVM AD
STATVAM CCXXXI REGIVM CCXXXVI
SVMA AF CAPVA: REGIVM MEILIA CCCXXIIII
ET EIDEM PRÆTOR IN
SICILIA FVGITEIVOS ITALICORVM
CONQVÆSEIVEI REDIDEIQVE
HOMINES DCCCCXVI EIDEMQVE
PRIMVS FECEI VT DE AGRO POPLICO
ARATORIBVS CEDERENT PASTORES
FORVM ÆDISQVE POPLICAS HEIC FECEI.

to almost any effort, and though the resources of the kingdom of Naples are small compared with his, still there is strength enough for such beneficial operations, and as the realm enjoys such profound peace, some part of the military might here be usefully employed. The great difficulty lies in devising proper methods of setting about it, and finding directors men of integrity, equal to the trust. If the plan were to be executed by the servants of the crown, I fear that unless they are cast in a different mould at Naples from that of other courts, the expence would be prodigious, the country oppressed, and more sacrificed to idle pomp than to real solid utility: If, on the other hand, the making of roads be committed to the feudal lords, it is to be apprehended that a merciful lord will leave the work imperfect, a hard-hearted one will render the burden insupportable. It appears therefore more advisable to commission provinces, districts or townships to make their own roads upon a plan given and superintended by the king's engineers, to prevent delays and frauds, and to cut short all litigations and quarrels. A commission of noblemen has been lately appointed to concert a scheme for improving the roads, and a tax of ten per cent. on property laid to defray the expence; but it will be many years before the project be completed. The incredible number of large bridges requisite to make travelling easy at all times in so mountainous a country will absorb a considerable portion of the appropriated revenue,
and

and the want of hard materials in many districts, where the rocks are rather baked clay than stone, will be another formidable obstacle to surmount. *

Next morning we reached the bottom of the valley, which is inclosed all round by hills, though low ones; the river loses itself here in several horizontal apertures in the ground, and oozes through the sand as through a sieve; * there is a narrow pass in one part of the ridge where the waters run over in high floods, when the usual funnels cannot receive them. Here we passed over a very steep mountain by a narrow rocky path, so slippery that it was extremely difficult to avoid falling at every step; on the north side the declivity is more than double the extent of that on the southern, and the narrow dell much below the level of the vale of Diano. Here the river Negro again breaks forth in a spacious cavern called la Pertosa, dedicated to St. Michael, who has the special patronage of all grottos in the kingdom. It is supposed to be a work of art, or if of nature, assisted at least by the hand of man; the Romans being desirous of draining the immense lake of Diano, as they had done that of Rieti, opened a subterraneous passage for the river: perhaps the channel was not subterraneous at first, but from

* Between Evoli and Reggio twenty-seven bridges of several arches will be required.

† The place is therefore called La Criva,—a Sieve.

the falling in of loose earth became covered. It is impossible to follow their operations, for the whole face of things must have been changed in the great number of years that have elapsed since the dissolution of their empire.* When the river gushes forth, it is so different from the limpid placid stream that spreads in a wide shallow bed along the level meadows of Diano, that I could hardly believe it was the same; for here below it bursts forth with horrid noise, rolling before it huge stones and broken trunks of trees; its colour is changed to a muddy white, which it contracts in the bowels of the earth by a junction with melted snows brought from the mountains, or by passing over strata of marle and chalk in its long journey of two miles underground. The road led us down the valley, which is beautifully wooded; it exhibits many points of rural scenery that resemble some picturesque spots in our English gardens, where nature is indulged in her native wildness, but subject in a certain degree to the control of art and taste. The waters wind charmingly among the

* In the year of Rome 483 Curius Dentatus, while Censor, opened a canal from lake Velinus, and brought the waters into the Nar at the fall now called le Marmore di Terni. By these means he drained a large valley, which became soon after one of the most fertile and delightful tracts of land in Italy. In the middle ages his works being destroyed, and the sulphureous sediment hardening into stone having blocked up the passage, the valley was again overflowed for many ages. After various attempts, it was opened out by order of Clement the Eighth in 1601, under the direction of Fontana.

trees,

trees, lose themselves in thickets to emerge again in open meadows, and turn the wheels of mills situated under lofty rocks and impending groves of oak : The vale follows the river to the gulf of Peſto through a huge chasm in Monte Alburno, a chain of very high mountains. We purſued our journey upon the hills, from which I had a view of numberleſs towns and villages ſcattered over the country ; all of them ſituated high to be out of the reach of Malaria. Auletta was the firſt we paſſed near ; it is exactly the kind of caſtle, cupola and habitation embowered high in aged groves, that Pouſſin and Salvator have ſo often introduced into the back grounds of their pictures. Sicignano is another large town in a ſtrange ſituation ; it ſtands on a knoll projecting from the ſide of Monte Alburno, and above it riſes a frightful range of bare perpendicular rocks.

We travelled fourteen miles upon a clayey road as bad as the worſt in Sicily ; a ſmall quantity of rain that had fallen in the night, had rendered it almoſt impaſſable. I was more fatigued with this ſhort piece of road than I had ever been during the whole preceding journey, and the horſes were ſcarce able to carry us through. At length theſe clays ended at La Duchefſa, a hunting rendezvous belonging to the chace of Perſano : It overlooks the Bay of Salerno, the foreſts that extend along the banks of the Silari and the heart of the Apennines ; I beheld before me the whole plain, the temples of Pœtium and the coaſt of Amalfi as far as Capri. We deſcended through woods and
crossed.

crossed the Silari upon a magnificent bridge erected by the king of Spain. This fine river was the ancient boundary of Campania, and was celebrated for the property of petrifying or rather incrusting ligneous substances thrown into its water. Here the bad roads terminate, none can be finer than those that go from hence to Salerno. At Evoli, a large old town on the edge of the plain, I hired a coach and took post-horses to Naples, having compleated a tour by sea and land of nine hundred and fourteen computed miles.

Itinerary for Sicily and Calabria.

From Naples to Palermo — 200 computed miles.

————	Favarotta	—	24	————
————	Alcamo	—	21	————
————	Calatafimi	—	10	————
————	Castelvetrano	—	18	————
————	Memfrici	—	15	————
————	Sciacca	—	12	————
————	Rivera	—	10	————
————	Siculiana	—	15	————
————	Girgenti	—	12	————
————	Palma	—	12	————
————	Licata	—	12	————
————	Terranova	—	18	————
————	Calatagerone	—	20	————
————	Palagonia	—	18	————
————	Lentini	—	15	————
————	Syracuse	—	22	————
————	Augusta	—	18	————
————	Catania	—	24	————
————	Giarri	—	25	————
————	Nifi	—	24	————
————	Messina	—	18	————
————	Tropea	—	60	————
————	Monteleone	—	18	————
————	Nicastro	—	24	————
————	Cosenza and Paula	—	68	————
————	Murano	—	40	————
————	Lago nero	—	36	————
————	Polla	—	33	————
————	Evoli	—	24	————
————	Naples	—	48	————

Total — 914 —

JOURNEY

J O U R N E Y FROM N A P L E S

T O

R O M E.

S E C T I O N LXVII.

EARLY in the month of May, 1778, I took my leave of Naples. The road to Averfa is through a rich but confined country. This town, which has something gay and lively in its appearance, was built in 1030, by Ranulph, a leader of the first Normans that came into Italy to seek their fortunes in the service of the Italian princes. This chieftain knew by experience, that it was impossible to guard against the treachery of the Lombards, by whom his troops were employed in war, but looked upon with an evil eye in time of peace, unless he obtained a fixed settlement, whither they might retire as to a center upon every emergency; he also foresaw that while the Normans were obliged to live at random without some
I property

property of their own, they could never become sufficiently powerful to form an establishment in Italy, which was the object he kept constantly in view. He therefore chose a spot near the ruins* of Atella, at the junction of two highways, that gave him a communication with every part of the country, and built a small fortress, which from its being opposed to Capua, and from his aversion to Pandulph, prince of that city, he called Averfa. Thus did a new swarm from the northern hive gain a footing in Italy, and added one more to the number of Ultramontane invaders that had subdued different parts of this tempting region.

Averfa was burnt to the ground by king Roger, and many years after, it underwent a similar fate by order of Charles of Anjou. Its ancient palace, on the foundation of which a convent has since been erected, was frequently the residence of the sovereign, before the murder of Andrew of Hungary, husband to Joan the First. The imbecility of this prince had suffered his Hungarian attendants, particularly a brutal monk called Friar Robert, to usurp an absolute dominion over his mind, and arrogate to themselves despotic authority in all affairs of state, to the exclusion of the princes of the blood-royal, and the great barons of the realm : This conduct bred discontents and led to a con-

* Averfa was not built upon the ruins of Atella, an ancient city of the Oscans; its ruins are to be seen two miles to the south at a place called S. Arpino di Atella.

spiracy formed in 1345, against his person; his fate was hastened by the dread the conspirators were in from his approaching coronation, a ceremony that would consolidate his power and endanger the lives of all those that opposed the measures of his favourites; therefore, on the 8th of September, while he was at Averfa with the whole court, the assassins contrived to have him called out into an open gallery under pretence of a very pressing message from Friar Robert, and there they threw a rope round his neck, strangled him, and afterwards cast his body into the street. His brother Lewis, king of Hungary, took ample revenge of this murder, but it remains a disputed point among historians, whether his wife was or was not privy to the transaction; the most moderate think her guilty of a connivance at least, for which some have apologized by alleging her youth; but this excuse rather aggravates than lessens her crime, for although the heart of a person further stricken in years may be supposed from long habits of vice and intercourse with wicked men to have contracted great obduracy, that of a young woman of eighteen ought to glow with the tender feelings natural to her sex, and shudder at the shedding of any blood, much more that of an human creature, that of her husband.

The close mode of cultivation and the plantations of vine-bearing elms continue from Naples to a mile beyond Averfa; there an open marshy country begins, in which I
saw

saw innumerable herds of buffaloes grazing. The mountains are seen distinctly on all sides, and have a beautiful effect, inclosing the plains.

At some distance from Averfa I turned to the right to view the remains of the ancient city of Capua; it was situated in the heart of the plain, two miles and a half from Modern Capua, and the river Voltorno. A double arcade, supposed to be a gate, was the first piece of antiquity I observed; it is in a lighter taste than most ancient arches destined for such purposes, being higher in proportion to its breadth.

The amphitheatre, though much defaced by the loss of its marble, offers many ornaments peculiar to itself; it is considerably smaller than the Flavian amphitheatre at Rome, but worthy of the first among the second cities of the empire: the monuments still to be seen on this spot are certainly of a date long posterior to Capuan independence, and even to that of Roman liberty. The lower order of the amphitheatre is Tuscan, the second Doric; what the upper ones were cannot be ascertained: On the key-stone of each arcade was the bust of a deity of a colossal size and coarse execution, much too massive for the rest of the work—Indeed it is the fault of this building to be clumsy in its architecture, but perhaps we judge unfairly upon the view only of its present state; when it was perfect in its height and forms, these defects may have vanished, or, at least, have been converted into an appearance of strength

and majesty characteristic of such a public edifice : It had four entrances, and was built of brick, faced with stone, or marble ; the little value set upon brick has preserved it, while the other materials have been torn down to mend roads, and build cottages. Santa Maria di Capua, and San Pietro del corpo, two small villages, now occupy part of the spacious inclosure of the city, which was the centre from whence the Viæ Appia, Latina, Domitia, and others branched off towards different provinces of Italy. Along the edges of these roads the ancients buried their dead in magnificent mausolea, a few of which yet standing point out the direction of the highways. The Conocchia, a vulgar name given to one of these monuments from a supposed resemblance with a distaff, is the handsomest, and consists of a cupola, surrounded with columns placed upon a square tower.

Capua was a settlement of the Osci known before the foundation of Rome ; as the amazing fertility of the land and a lucrative commerce poured immense wealth upon its inhabitants, it became one of the most extensive and magnificent cities in the world. With riches excessive luxury crept in, and the Capuans grew insolent ; but by their effeminacy they soon lost the power of repelling those neighbouring nations, which their insolence had exasperated : For this reason Capua was continually exposed to the necessity of calling in foreign aid, and endangering its safety by the uncommon temptations it offered to
needy

needy auxiliaries. The Roman soldiers sent to defend Capua were on the point of making it their prey, and often the voice of the Roman people was loud for a removal from the barren unwholesome banks of the Tiber to the garden of Italy, near those of the Voltorno. Through well-founded jealousy of the ambition of Rome, or as Livy, and other partial writers term it, natural inconstancy, the Capuans warmly espoused the quarrel of Carthage: Hannibal made Capua his winter quarters after the campaign of Cannæ, and there, if we are to believe historians, his rough and hitherto invincible soldiers were metamorphosed by pleasure and indolence into soft minions, never after fit to cope with the Romans in the field. I cannot presume to deny what is so positively asserted by authors of eminence, but I think it extraordinary that with such feeble means, and at the head of such enervated troops, Hannibal should so manage as to continue the war during thirteen years after that unfortunate winter. That these Epicureans should during that time face the best legions of Rome in many bloody and well-disputed conflicts; that after ill success their general should still be able to bring them on to fresh engagements, and prevent them from sinking under such a series of hardships and wants; that he should defeat with these men several Roman armies, besiege and take towns, and even dare to present himself at the head of so degenerate a crew before the gates of Rome, gives me great reason to doubt of the pernicious effects

effects of this Capuan winter. There is much rhetorical misrepresentation and hyperbole in the accounts given us by Roman historians, and indeed I suspect their whole history from a dearth of records and chronicles to be strangely interwoven with fiction.

When through a failure of supplies from Carthage Hannibal was under a necessity of remaining in Brutium, and leaving the Capuans to defend themselves, this city, which had been long invested, was surrendered at discretion to the consuls Appius Claudius and Q. Fulvius Flaccus. The senators were put to death, the nobles imprisoned for life, and all the citizens sold and dispersed. Vibius, the chief of Hannibal's friends, avoided this ignominious fate, and escaped from the cruel vengeance of the Romans by a voluntary death.—When the mob insisted upon the gates being thrown open to the enemy, Vibius assembled his steady associates, and sat down with them to a superb banquet, after which each of the guests swallowed a poisonous draught, and expired in full possession of their freedom. The buildings were spared by the victor, and Capua was left to be merely a harbour for the husbandmen of the plain, a warehouse for goods, and a granary for corn; but so advantageous a situation could not long be neglected; colonies were sent to inhabit it, and in process of time it regained a degree of importance.

Genferic the Vandal was more cruel than the Roman conquerors had been, for he massacred the inhabitants, and
burnt

burnt the town to the ground. Narfes rebuilt it, but in 841 it was totally destroyed by an army of Saracens, and the inhabitants driven into the mountains. Some time after the retreat of these savage invaders, the Lombards ventured down again into the plain, but not deeming their force adequate to the defence of so large a circuit as the old city, they built themselves a smaller one on the river, and called it Capua—They chose the site of Casilinum, famous in the second Punic war for the resistance made by its garrison against Hannibal. Since the foundation of the new city old Capua has remained in ruins.

In 856 Landulph formed here an independent earldom dismembered from the duchy of Benevento, and in the course of a few generations Capua acquired the title of a principality. In the 11th century the Normans of Averfa expelled the Lombard race of princes, and Richard their chief became prince of Capua; the grandson of Tancred of Hauteville drove out the descendants of Richard, and united this state to the rest of his possessions.

Capua is at present a neat little city fortified according to the rules of modern art, and may be considered as the key of the kingdom; though far removed from the frontier, it is the only fortification that really covers the approach to Naples: The Voltorno, a deep muddy river with high banks, may afford a good barrier against the desultory attacks of light troops, and the forerunners of an army, and thereby give leisure to the Neapolitans to prepare for
I resistance

resistance in the field, but unless a strong force be ready to defend the country, the river will be of little avail, as it cannot long stop the progress of a determined foe.

The streets are more open and airy than is usual in the towns of this kingdom, and the buildings better. Many of them are constructed with materials brought from the ancient city.

S E C T I O N L X V I I I.

TH E plain that reaches from the bridge of Capua to the foot of the Falernian hills, is, if possible, richer than that which lies south of the river; I never saw any land that can be compared to it for beauty and luxuriance of productions. The post-house of Sparanefi stands in the centre of a most delightful scene; thick waving crops of corn cover all the flat, except where some spreading single trees shade small patches of pasture; the sea appears over the corn, and on every other side a border of mountains at different degrees of distance encircles the picture.

Various are the encomiums lavished in all ages on this happy tract of cultivation by every author, that has had occasion to mention it. The repeated crops which it produced in the course of each year, without being exhausted; the fruit, with which its orchards were loaded, superior in
flavour

flavour to all others; the wine that flowed from the vineyards of the surrounding hills, and the exquisite perfumes and ointments, capital appendages of ancient luxury, extracted from its innumerable beds of fragrant flowers, were subjects on which historians and poets expatiated with full delight: Whole streets in Capua were devoted to the trade of perfumery, and the Capuans had the exclusive privilege of making perfumed buskins for the emperors.

On leaving this plain, I entered a mountainous country, over which Hannibal made his escape from Fabius, who hoped in vain to inclose this subtle antagonist within his toils. Hannibal sent in the night some light troops up the mountain, with a number of oxen having lighted faggots tied to their horns; the Romans thought the Carthaginian army was moving off that way, while Hannibal wheeled to the right, and passed into the vale of Teano without opposition.

The Falernian and Maffican hills, so renowned for their wines, were a part of the ridge that stretches westward to the sea, where the city of Sinuessia stood, below the present town of Mondragone; the Appian way passed through it to Capua. It is remarkable that the roads in use among the moderns run generally far into the mountainous part of the country, and that the corresponding ancient ways were carried as much as possible in the low grounds, or near the sea. This must be attributed to the desolate state of the coast for so many centuries, while it was exposed

the ravages of various piratical nations, and while the timorous inhabitants sought for safety among the fastnesses of their most inaccessible mountains. The Falernian hills are composed of ashes and other volcanical substances; I saw several quarries of lava open. The sides and summits of this chain are pleasantly wooded, except near the extremity towards the sea, where they are quite black and bare.

I slept at St. Agatha, an inn delightfully situated among the hills in the midst of gardens: Its environs resemble the beautiful parts of England more than the rest of Italy.

Next morning I walked across a deep valley about a mile to Sessa, a large city on a precipitate eminence; it chiefly consists of one long well-paved street, on a rapid declivity; the churches are built in a bad taste, and their interior decorations correspond with it. Roman altars and monumental stones are built up in the walls of several houses. I copied an inscription upon an altar vowed by the people of Minturnæ and Sueffa to Matidia, the niece of Trajan. The appearance of this town is uncommonly grand from a distance, and the views it commands beautiful and extensive.

* Sessa was surnamed Aurunca to distinguish it from

* When Charles of Anjou distributed the forfeited estates of the adverse party among his own friends, the family of Balzo or Baux obtained a grant of this fee. In the time of Joan the First it was confiscated, and sold to the Marsani, who in their turn were attainted and despoiled by Ferdinand the First. It then came into the possession of the great captain Gonsalvo de Cordova, and was transmitted to his posterity.

Sueffa

Suessâ Pometia, a town near the Pòmptine marshes. Lucilius the satyrist was born here 147 years before the Christian æra ; some fragments of his works have reached us.

The women hereabouts divide their hair in the middle of their forehead, plait it, and carry it back over their ears to join the locks behind, and form a round mat or coil. They all wear yellow stockings.

From St. Agatha I descended into a spacious plain, open to the sea, and clothed with rich crops of corn ; the few uncultivated spots were over-grown with cistus in full flower and fragrance. The Garigliano * flowing silently out of the mountains, traverses the vale in a deep winding bed, and empties itself into the sea, a little below the ruins of Minturnæ, which made an awful appearance along its banks. They consist of parts of an amphitheatre, and of a theatre still more evidently marked, an octagon hall, numberless vaults and arches, and an aqueduct, crossing the high road, and almost reaching the hills from which it formerly brought water to the town ; the modern burgh of Trajetta crowns the eminence above its extremity, in a beautiful style of landscape, which is only to be seen in Italy, and in pictures painted from ideas acquired there.

* Anc. Liris.

—————
Quietâ

Aquâ taciturnus amnis.

(HOR.)

Nullo mutabilis imbri

Perstringit tacitas gemmanti gurgite ripas.

(SILIUS.)

s s s 2

The

The marshes below these ruins will never be forgotten, as long as the events of Roman history are remembered; for in them Caius Marius concealed himself, when he fled before the prevailing faction of Sylla. Minturnæ was a desolate place early in the seventh century, probably abandoned on account of the malignity of the vapours that rise from the adjacent fens. This did not deter the Saracens from settling there, when they wanted a safe retreat, where they might deposit the booty they had collected in their expeditions, and take breath after their toils and warfare: They fortified themselves strongly near this ruined city, and for several years maintained the post in defiance of all the armies that could be brought against them. It was not till the year 916 that the united force of all the neighbouring potentates prevailed over them, and delivered this country from the ravages of these merciless unbelievers.

The banks of the Garigliano have been the scene of many bloody encounters. In the wars of the sixteenth century the French and Spaniards often disputed its passage with mutual slaughter. There is at present no bridge across but only a ferry at a large tower; a little higher up are some remains of a bridge, but it is not known when it was built, or when destroyed.

From the plain of the Garigliano the road passes over the extremity of the mountains into another plain of less extent, which lies along the shore of the bay of Gaeta.

That

That city appears full in front upon a peninsula ; and above it stands the tomb of Munatius Plancus, which is a conspicuous object from every side. The vale is narrow, being confined by high mountains of calcareous rock. I saw no traces of volcanical operations during the remainder of my journey through the Neapolitan territory. At the foot of the elevated isthmus that connects the Gaetan promontory with the Apennines, I stopped at Mola, a small town on the shore, near the site of the ancient Formiæ; this is the post where the baggage of all persons travelling to or from Naples is examined by the custom-house officers. The quay before the inn is one of the most delightful situations imaginable, for it is sheltered from every rude blast and boisterous commotion of the elements by towering mountains that encircle the eastern side of the bay, and supply it with streams of excellent water ; the bay expands in front, with the city of Gaeta rising out of its bosom ; orange groves hang over the water, and perfume all the environs. I crossed the bay in an hour and, upon landing at Gaeta, was conducted to the king's lieutenant, who gave me leave to walk about the fortifications. Having procured a guide, I surveyed the whole promontory, notwithstanding a scorching sun, and an oppressive scirocco that began to blow soon after I set out. The batteries are numerous, all directed towards the continent, for the rocks are so lofty and perpendicular towards the sea, that no danger is apprehended on that side. At the extremity of the line of works, which extend
a con-

a considerable way out of the gates, is the church of La Trinita built above the Montagna spaccata. This is a crack in the **rocky** cliff, made, as the Gaetans believe, by an earthquake at the time of our Saviour's death : A chapel is erected in the chasm, under which the sea beats into a huge cavern. I measured back my steps two miles to the cathedral, which is dedicated to St. Erasmus: Frederic of Swabia adorned it with a steeple remarkably slender and lofty : Its inside is supported by a variety of antique columns ; the baptismal font is an ancient vase taken from the ruins of some ancient Formian villa : the workmanship is Greek, representing Mercury bringing the infant Bacchus to a nymph, while the Corybantes are dancing round her : The figures are of the good times of sculpture.

* The city of Gaeta is in general well built, though upon uneven ground ; the fortifications are extensive, and complicated, but whether they render it a place of great strength in the present improved state of military architecture or not, is a point I must leave to professors in the science to decide. As the enemy has usually penetrated into the kingdom, without passing near Gaeta, its importance as a barrier town is greatly diminished, though it would be dangerous for an army, in case of a repulse, to

* Gaeta is said to be so called from the name of the nurse of Æneas ; a less fabulous etymology deduces it from Gaite, an ancient Samnite word signifying a curve or bay.

find such a fortress in the way of its retreat, especially as the passes of Mola are narrow. Gaeta has always been considered as a strong place; it enjoyed independence for a long series of years, under the protection either of the Greek emperor or the pope, being governed by dukes nearly in the same manner as Naples and Amalfi were. The forces of this little republic were very serviceable to pope Leo the Fourth in his wars with the Saracens. It often changed masters in the subsequent ages, and several times was exposed to the horrors of war. James king of Sicily was encamped before its walls, when he was so suddenly surrounded by the army of Charles the Second, king of Naples, that he must inevitably have been destroyed or captured, had not Charles weakly or humanely condescended to conclude a treaty of general pacification. The house of Durazzo took refuge in Gaeta, and made it the head quarters of their party, during the turbulent minority of Ladislaus, and here that active and fortunate prince was crowned, and from hence he sallied forth to attack and drive his adversaries out of the kingdom.

The body of the constable of Bourbon, who was slain as he was storming the walls of Rome, was brought hither, and for above two hundred years shewn to all passengers in a glass case; but in the present reign his bones, which had been kept so long above ground upon account of his dying excommunicated, were ordered to be deposited in the earth, for it was indecent that the remains of a prince

of the house of Bourbon should be thus exposed as a spectacle of idle curiosity in a kingdom that is governed by a sovereign of the same royal race.

S E C T I O N LXIX.

IN my return to Mola, I visited many ruins of ancient villas, tombs, and gardens, dispersed over the delightful isthmus that joins Gaieta to the main land. The abbé Chaupy with great ingenuity has proved by inscriptions and other forcible arguments, that the remains of terraces, baths, reservoirs, and rooms, which surround the Villa Marfana at Castiglione, belonged to the Forum of Cicero, near which in a close walk this admirable orator was overtaken by the satellites of Anthony, and murdered as he was making his escape to the sea.

The death of this great man has covered the memory of Anthony with more odium than all his other violences and proscriptions have done ; but I think posterity has been too much seduced by the name of Cicero, and that better citizens were sacrificed to the jealousy of the triumvirs, without exciting so much indignation. If we take an impartial survey of Cicero's conduct and principles avowed in his own epistolary correspondence, and trace him through all the labyrinths of his contradictory letters, we shall find more to blame than to admire, and discover that the desire
of

of advancing his fortunes, and making himself a name, were from his outset in life, the only objects he had in view: The good of his country, and the dictates of stern steady virtue were not, as in Brutus and Cato, the constant springs of his actions: The misfortunes that befel him after his consulship developed his character, and shewed him in his true colours: From that time to his death, pusillanimity, irresolution, and unworthy repining tainted his judgment, and perplexed every step he wished to take. He flattered Pompey *, and cringed to Cæsar †, while in his private letters he abused them both alternately ‡. He acknowledges in a letter to his friend, the time-serving Atticus, that, although he was at present determined to support the cause of Rome and liberty, and to bear misfortune like a philosopher, there was one thing which would gain him over to the triumvirs, and that was their

procuring

* —tibi multò majori quàm Africanus fuit, me non multò minorem quam Lælium.—Ad famil. lib. 5. 7. Pompeio, pro quo emori quàm piè possum tum lubenter.—Ad Att. 7. 23. et alibi.

† Omnia mea studia in istum unum (*Cæsarem*) conferam. Ego vero ardenti quidem studio, ac fortasse efficiam, quod sæpe viatoribus quàm properant, evenit; ut, si seriùs, quàm voluerint forte surrexerunt, properando etiam citiùs, quam si de multa nocte vigilassent, perveniant quo velint: Sic ego.—Ad Quint. frat. lib. 2. 15.

Jam amplitudinem gloriamque tuam magno mihi ornamento fore, existimo quòdme levas cura.—Ex fragm. ad C. Cæsarem.

‡ In perditis impiisque consiliis, quibus Cæsar usus erat, nullo potuit esse felicitas.—Ex Marcel. Fragm.

procuring for him the vacant augurship ;* so pitiful was the bribe to which he would have sacrificed his honour, his opinion, and the commonwealth ; by his wavering imprudent conduct, he contributed greatly towards its destruction †. After reproaching the conspirators for leaving him out of the secret, and loading them with the most flattering compliments on their delivering Rome from Cæsar's tyranny, he calls Casca an assassin, to pay his court to the boy Octavius, by whom he was compleatly duped §. His praises of this triumvir are in the highest strain of panegyric ; Mark Anthony well knew that the virulent abuse,

Quanto in odio noster amicus Magnus, cujus cognomen unà cum Crassi Divitis cognomine consenescit.—Ad Att. 2. 13.

Nos, ut ostendit (*Pompeius*) admodum diligit, amplectitur, amat, aperte laudat, occulte, sed ita ut perspicuum sit, invidet: Nihil come, nihil simplex, nihil ἐκ τοῖς πολλοῖς honestum, nihil illustre, nihil forte, nihil liberum.—Ad Att. 1. 13.

* Cuinam auguratus deferatur ; quo quidè uno ego ab istis capi possum. Vide levitatem meam.—Ad Att. 2. 5.

† Adhuc ulta suas (*reipublicæ*) injurias est per vos interritu tyrannii.—Ad famil. lib. 12. 1.

—periculum non extimesco modò vestri facti gloriam cum meâ laude communicet.—Ib. 12. 2.

Vestri pulcherrimi facti me principem dicit fuisse. Utinam quidè fuissem.

Vellem idibus Martiis me ad cœnam invitasses: reliquiarum nihil fuisset.

‡ Pueri licentiam potius esse irritam quàm repressam à Cicerone, tantum eum tribuere huic indulgentiæ ut se maledictis non abstineat, iis quidem quæ in ipsum dupliciter recidunt: quod et plures occidit uno, seque priùs fateatur ficarium quam objiciat Cascæ quod objicit.—Brutus ad Atticum.

§ Neminem tibi profecto hominem ex omnibus aut anteposuissem unquam aut etiam comparassem.—Ad Cæsar. Jun. fragm.

which

which Cicero was continually pouring out against him, was not an effusion of patriotic zeal or virtuous indignation, but merely the ebullitions of personal hatred. He therefore caused Cicero to be killed, as an angry man that has been stung, stamps on a venomous animal that comes within reach of his foot. The cloak he threw over the body of Brutus, and the speech he pronounced at the sight of that hero when dead, differ widely from the treatment he gave the remains of Cicero, and shew that he made a distinction between a Roman, who opposed him from political motives, and one whose enmity arose from private pique.

The road from Castiglione, a large Benedictine convent, is lined with fragments of ancient edifices. One is particularly conspicuous near the bridge of Itri. The first story is square, upon which rises a round tower, crowned by a square turret full of holes like a dovecote. Chaupy contends with much apparent reason, that it was erected on the spot where Cicero was killed; it answers in point of situation to the descriptions given us by Plutarch and others of the place where the assassins, who had taken a nearer road to the shore, hid themselves, and intercepted the litter, which for greater security had been brought through dark and secret walks *. An inscription

* Q GISVITIVS Q L PHILOMVSVS
MAJOR
Q GISVITIVS Q L PHILOMVS M
M VITRVVIVS M L DEMETRIVS
ET VITRVVIA
CHRESTE M VITRVVIVS M L
.... TEMA.

T T T 2

fixed

fixed in the wall of a ruin at a small distance is supposed by the same curious observer to have been placed by the freedmen of Marcus and Quintus Cicero, in order to perpetuate their attachment to their murdered lords. Although the name of Tullius does not occur in the inscription, the circumstance of the freedmen bearing the prænomena of their respective masters affords a strong presumption in favour of the hypothesis. We know that Marcus Cicero had a freedman of the name of Demetrius *.

I now entered a mountainous region, where I found the scarcity of water truly alarming; the early heats had dried up the wells and ditches, and barely left enough for the absolute wants of the inhabitants. They were obliged to drive their cattle many miles to water, and in one place I saw a drove of horses waiting to be led down into an ancient vault, in the bosom of the hill. I could not procure a drop of water that was drinkable.

Having passed the steep mountains of Itri, I descended into the plain of Fondi, which would be a terrestrial paradise, were it blessed with a purer air; but near the shore a large lake with woody banks exhales pernicious vapours, and some torrents that intersect and overflow the plain, contribute to render the air too moist for so hot a climate. A semicircle of mountains embraces this vale, and prevents

* *Litteræ quas dederas Dēmetrio liberto.*—*Ad Att.* 14. 19.

Demetrium redde nostrum.—*Ad fam.* 16. 19.

in some degree its having a sufficient ventilation to clear its atmosphere.

Fondi is situated in a gay open exposure, at the foot of the mountain, and is a perfect square, divided by two streets at right angles. Those that run from east to west, being no constant thoroughfare, have still their antique pavement entire, resembling that part of the Appian way which exists in a perfect state near Terracina. In the Neapolitan territory it was all taken up, or covered, when the road from the frontier to Naples was repaired previous to the passage of the present queen. Before that time it was one of the worst in the world, and no traveller could flatter himself with a possibility of reaching Naples, without being overturned once at least; the stones of the Appian way being moved from their places, and half buried at random in a deep viscous clay, made almost every step a slough. At present no capital in Europe has a fairer approach to it than Naples.

The walls of Fondi deserve the attention of the curious, who wish to be made acquainted with the style of building used by the Tuscans and other nations that preceded the Romans in the possession of this country.* They are built near the bottom with large pentagonal or other polygonal flags of lava, and form a surface exactly similar to

* At Cori near Velletri are very magnificent remains of similar walls: This place merits the attention of travellers, Piranesi published some engravings of these ruins.

the appearance the Via Appia † would make were it raised up in a perpendicular position. Above this solid foundation, which must be of very high antiquity, the wall is constructed with smaller stones, irregularly placed, as their various sizes and shapes directed, after the manner called by Vitruvius *incertum* ; this part belongs to a later period : Above all the Romans added regular courses of equal stones. The eastern gate is entirely of their workmanship ; over it is an inscription denoting that Numistorius and Runtius had the superintendency of the gates and streets, and had given the senate a proper account of their conduct.

Fondi, an old city of the Oschi, maintained a respectable rank among the municipia under the Roman government, and was afterwards a colony. In 1222 it was burnt by the imperialists for siding with the pope, in obedience to the commands of its earl ; this lord was of the house of Aquila, the heiress of which afterwards married Jordan Gaetano, nephew to pope Boniface the Eighth.

A council was held here in 1382 by the enemies of Urban the Sixth, and the cardinal of Geneva was invested with the tiara by the name of Clement the Seventh. In 1534 two thousand Turks landed secretly out of Barba-

† I have often thought it probable that the paving stones of the Romans were portions sawed off columns of basalt, such as compose the banks of the lake of Bolsena, the Giants Causeway in Ireland, and the cliffs of Staffa in the western isles of Scotland.

rossa's fleet, and under the conduct of some renegadoes from this country surpris'd Fondi in the dead of night. Their project was to seize Donna Julia, wife of Vespasian Colonna, the most beautiful woman in Italy, and to convey her to the Grand Signor's seraglio, but she had just time to get on horseback in her shift, and fly to the mountains before the corsairs reached her apartments. The town was sacked, numbers of its inhabitants carried into slavery, and the Barbarians returned unmolested to their ships, having been absent only four hours from the fleet.

Before I reached the end of the plain and the mountains of Terracina, I pass'd through la Portella, a gate and custom-house, which is the boundary of the kingdom of Naples. From hence I proceeded to Rome.

J O U R N E Y
T O
A V E Z Z A N O.

S E C T I O N LXX.

ON the fixth of March 1779 I made a short tour into the kingdom of Naples with Sir Thomas Gascoigne.

We left Rome on horseback at five in the morning, and came to sleep at Carfoli, a small ill-built town on the side of a steep hill, which shuts up a defile of the mountains. It is just within the limits of the Neapolitan state, for in the plain below is the point of division at an inn called Il Cavaliere, where some custom-house officers are stationed. This town bears the name of the ancient city of Carfeoli, though its ruins lie near a mile off in the plain. We here began to find that we had been deceived by the temperature of the air at Rome, for the wind was intolerably cold,
and

and had the cutting feel of a blast sweeping over the snow. Carfoli is a portion of the immense demesne possessed by the constable Colonna; he has thirty-seven manors in this neighbourhood.

Next morning we entered the narrow defile of Colli, and crossed a mountain which is the natural barrier of the Neapolitan dominions on this side: it must prove a difficult pass for an army to force, if any defence be intended; the valley is shaded by oak-woods, above which a forest of beech covers the higher parts of the mountains. The ascent, which is six miles from Carfoli to the top, is very stony, laborious, and even dangerous; the rocks are a calcareous breccia, exceedingly slippery. The passage was rendered uncommonly disagreeable to us by our meeting with endless droves of cattle. At Rocca di Cerro, a poor hamlet on the summit of the pass, we had a view into Abruzzo, a wide mountainous tract of country; we looked over woody hills full of villages, a spacious stretch of plains, and part of a great lake, all bounded by a gigantic circle of mountains. Velino rears its snowy peak high above the general line, and is distinguished among them all even from Rome, which is seventy miles distant.

The descent from Rocca di Cerro is very rapid, but it was visible that the plains we were going to were higher in the atmosphere than that of Carfoli, and prodigiously elevated above the Campagna of Rome.

Tagliacozzo, a large market town, was the first place we

came to on the declivity, its ruined castle stands on a high perpendicular rock at the head of a steep hill; on the slope are the buildings of the upper town; the road or street that runs down the middle of them is as precipitous as any I ever passed, not excepting the wildest hamlet in Savoy. The lower town is less cramped for room, and seems to have a better collection of inhabitants. At the foot of the mountain amidst horrible rocks and precipices the river Salto breaks out in a large volume, and immediately turns several mills: Its waters are excessively cold, and from some sulphureous or petrifying quality very pernicious to all herbs and garden vegetables that are sprinkled with them. It traverses a pleasant vale, and afterwards runs northwards into the Roman state. We rode across the flat, and then ascended a gentle eminence to Scurcola, a large village and old castle that overlooks the Palentine plains, where a battle was fought in the month of August, 1268, between Charles of Anjou and Conradine of Swabia, who had entered the kingdom by Tagliacozzo in order to possess himself of the crown of his ancestors. A low chain of hills divides this plain from the lake of Celano, and ends in a curve opposite to Scurcola so as to form a valley that cannot be seen into from the low grounds. Here the regular onset began between the two armies, in which that of Conradine, from the superiority of numbers, gained such an advantage over the French, that the victory seemed decided in his favour; the rout

was universal, and the Germans thought of nothing more but reaping the fruits of their toil by the plunder of their enemies; for this purpose they broke their ranks, and dispersed themselves in pursuit of the vanquished. At this critical moment Charles, who by the advice of Alard de S. Valery, an old experienced commander, had concealed one third of his forces, and that the flower of his army, in the little valley above-mentioned, rushed down at their head upon this disorderly multitude; the Germans being scattered beyond all possibility of rallying or making resistance, were put to the sword in great numbers by these fresh assailants, and a complete victory was gained by the Angevines; Conradine, and the duke of Austria were at that fatal time bathing their dusty brows in the Salto, and had scarce leisure to escape from the fury of the victor. Their flight, alas! was of little avail, for being seized on the Roman coast while they were endeavouring to put to sea in disguise, they were delivered up to Charles, and the next year juridically murdered at Naples: By the death of these unfortunate youths the two illustrious houses of Swabia and Austria became extinct, and an opening was made for the family of Hapsburg to advance towards the mighty honours and power which it has since attained. Charles built a Cistercian convent on the field of battle in honour of Santa Maria della Vittoria, and endowed it richly; but on account of earthquakes and the disasters which befel it from its vicinity to the frontiers, the monks

left the place, and the abbatial residence being transferred to Scurcola, the monastery fell to ruin. The remains of it, which have nothing remarkable in them, are to be seen near the ancient Via Valeria. Upon the monks abandoning this settlement, the popes appropriated to themselves the right of conferring the benefice in commendam, and thus disposed of it for many years; but on the death of the late incumbent, the Abate Quercia detected the usurpation, vindicated the king's rights to the presentation, and obtained the living for himself; the court of Rome raised a short and feeble clamour, but no regard was paid to its reclamation. This possessor has by reviving dormant claims, and exacting neglected dues, raised the value of the abbey from seven hundred to eight thousand ducats a year.

The view from hence towards Magliano, a walled town on a round knoll, and the spiry summit of mount Velino behind it, has something uncommonly sublime. We turned the point of the hills where the Angevine army was arrayed, and rode through another plain which widens gradually to the banks of the lake. On our left hand, upon an eminence, appeared the town of Albi, noted in Roman history for being the state prison, where captive princes were shut up, after being barbarously dragged through the streets of Rome at the chariot wheels of a triumphant consul. Perfes king of Macedon terminated his wretched career in this confinement, with his son, the
last

last hope of an illustrious line of kings. Syphax the Numidian, and Bituinus king of the Averni, were also condemned to this gaol, by the particular clemency of the senate, which sometimes indulged its savage disposition by putting its captives to death.

Alba being situated in the center of Italy, amidst difficult mountainous passes, and far from all means of escape, was esteemed a most proper place for the purpose of guarding prisoners of importance : Artificial strength was added to its natural security by fortifications, which remain to this day in a state that proves their ancient solidity. For the entertainment of the garrison, which was required in a place of such consequence, an amphitheatre was erected, of which the ruins are still visible, as well as the foundations of a temple, and other buildings of Roman times.

Lucius Vitellius, brother to the emperor of that name, had a villa near this place, famous for the variety and excellence of its fruit-trees, which he had brought from Syria. His gardens were the nurseries where several of the most delicious stone fruits, that are now so common in Europe, were first cultivated and multiplied ; it must have been necessary at Alba to shelter trees transplanted from Asia, and to treat them with great tenderness and care, in order to rear them to perfection, for the climate of this high region is extremely rigorous in winter ; the cold season lasts long, and is accompanied with violent storms of wind, and falls of snow. The lake has
been

been often frozen entirely over, and this year the greatest part of its surface was covered with ice. We experienced the severity of the climate, for as outrageous a blast of snow as any I ever faced, even in my own country, overtook us before we could reach the town of Avezzano.

We were there received in the house of Don Ladislao Mattei, a gentleman to whose politeness, excellent natural parts, and fund of acquired knowledge, I cannot pay too high a tribute of praise: The elegant manner in which we were treated, and the pleasure we found in his agreeable conversation made us bear with cheerfulness the inconvenience of being locked up by the excessive badness of the weather, and the difficulties that attended our examining any of those objects of curiosity which had been the motives of our journey. The mother of D. Ladislao and twenty other children was then in her eighty-seventh year, and as hale, cheerful, upright, and well-looking as most women of forty; she had as yet felt none of the disadvantages of old age, being in full possession of her health, and every one of her senses.

Avezzano was founded in 860, and contains 2700 inhabitants, and two religious communities within its walls, which are indeed in a ruinous condition. The houses are in general mean, but there are some large buildings and opulent families of the class of gentlemen, not possessed of fees held in capite. The town is built on an almost imperceptible declivity one mile from the lake of Celano,

to

to which an avenue of poplars leads from the baronial castle. This edifice stands at a little distance from the town, is square, and flanked with towers; it was erected by Virginio Orfini, to which family this and many other great lordships belonged, before they were wrested from them in times of civil war, and transferred to the Colonnas.

S E C T I O N LXXI.

AS soon as the weather would permit, we visited the lake of Celano, so called by the moderns from a town near its north shore, the head of the earldom that comprehended at one time the greatest part of the country of the Marfi. This was the ancient name of the people that inhabited the environs of the lake, allowed by the Romans to be the most intrepid soldiers of their legions, when in friendship, and the most formidable of their enemies, when at variance. It was a common saying, that Rome could neither triumph over the Marfi, nor without them. In the 662d year of Rome, they put themselves at the head of the social war, one of the most obstinate and dangerous oppositions ever made to the progress of the Roman power; it was terminated by a grant of those privileges for which they contended. Their name still subsists in that of the diocese, for the prelate is styled bishop of the Marfi.

In

In ancient times, the lake was called Fucinus, and was under the protection of a god of the same denomination, whose temple stood on its banks. According to the testimony of ancient authors, it was subject to extraordinary risings and decreasings. The actual circumference is forty-seven miles ; the breadth in the largest part, ten, in the narrowest, four ; its depth, twelve foot upon an average. But all these have varied prodigiously. Two miles up the plain, behind Avezzano, the fragments of boats, shells, and other marks of its ancient extent have been casually discovered ; and, on the contrary, there are people who remember when it did not flow nearer than within two miles of Avezzano. An immense tract of excellent land is lost at every increase of its level, and if any means could be devised for draining it, or at least reducing its size, the value of the ground recovered for cultivation would be more than an equivalent for any expence incurred in the works.

All round this noble piece of water rises a circle of grand mountains, some of them the highest in Italy, if we except the Alps. The Rocca di Camlio is accounted the most elevated among them : In summer this country must be a delightful place of abode, for the environs of the lake are well inclosed, and the sides of the hills covered with fine woods ; its waters abound with fish of various kinds, and thither repair at stated seasons innumerable flights of wild-fowl. The necessaries of life are good, plentiful and cheap :

cheap: scarce a town but is celebrated for the excellence of some particular species of food.

We rode along the edge of the lake, which was excessively agitated by the high wind, and resembled a dark stormy sea; at the distance of a mile and a half from the town we came to the mouth of the emissary or opening made by the order of Claudius Cæsar for the discharge of the waters into the Liris,* which runs in a deep valley on the other side of the hills. The opening is now choaked up, and lies at the foot of the hill, much below the present level of the water: In a line from it up the slope are
fix

* Dio says the emperor intended to convey the waters into the Tiber; which could only be by means of the Salto, the Velino and the Nera, through all which they must have passed, before they fell into the Tiber, unless he meant to carry them upon arches over the Liris, and through a double chain of hills to the source of the Teverone. The Salto is too far off, and, I imagine, upon much too high a level.

Cluverius asserts that no body now knows where the Emissary was; and that the works shewn for it are no more than the vestiges of a small canal, where the river Pitonius entered the bowels of the mountains, out of which it did not emerge till it reached the valley of Subiaco, where the aqueducts began that conveyed it to Rome, by the name of the Aqua Martia. Pliny tells a wonderful story of this river's rising in the distant mountains of the Peligni, and traversing the Fucine lake, without mixing its waters with it. Those of the lake, are themselves limpid and wholesome, and if they were to be conveyed to Rome in pipes, would certainly be as pure and good as any spring water whatever. As the long term of eleven years, with an enormous multitude of hands, was employed in this excavation, it may perhaps have been carried as far as the beginning

six perpendicular wells, and two oblique grooves to the canal, which was driven through the hill into the opposite valley, and there had a vent at Capistrelli, two miles from the lake. The water is said to flow as far as the center of the hill, and to be there twenty feet deep, but being obstructed by earth fallen in, or want of level, proceeds no further. Oblique collateral galleries were also contrived for the purpose of clearing the channel of rubbish, as the workmen advanced. As the swelling of the lake was attended with incredible damage, the Marſi had often petitioned the ſenate to drain it: Julius Cæſar would have attempted it, had he lived longer. His ſucceſſors were averſe to the project, till Claudius, who delighted in expensive difficult enterprizes, undertook it. During the ſpace of eleven years he employed thirty-thouſand men in digging a paſſage through the mountain, and when every thing was ready for letting off the water, exhibited a ſuperb naval ſpectacle on the lake.

A great number of condemned criminals were obliged to act the parts of Rhodians and Sicilians in ſeparate fleets,

of the aqueducts in the vale of the Teverone, where the ruins are ſtill to be ſeen, though at leaſt twelve miles in a ſtraight line from the lake. Frontinus mentions his having diſcovered the real ſource of the Aqua Martia, between Carſeoli and Subiaco, thirty-fix miles from Rome; near Rio Freddo in the Roman ſtate are ſeveral wells, or air-holes, that were contrived for the uſe of the ſubterraneous conduit, by which its waters were there conveyed through a mountain.

to engage in earnest, and to destroy one another for the entertainment of the court, and the multitude of spectators that covered the hills : A line of well-armed vessels and rafts loaded with soldiers surrounded the scene of action, in order to prevent any of the wretches from escaping ; but it was with great difficulty and many threats that they could be brought to an engagement. When this savage diversion was ended, the operations for opening the emissary commenced, and the emperor was very near being swept away, and drowned by the sudden rushing of the waters towards this vent. However, either through the ignorance or negligence of the engineers, the work did not answer as was expected, and Claudius did not live long enough to have the faults amended : Nero abandoned the scheme through envy. Hadrian is said to have let off the waters of the Fucinus, but none now escape except through hidden channels formed by nature, which are probably subject to be obstructed, and thus occasion a superabundance of water in the lake, till some unknown cause removes the obstructions, and again gives free passage. As three considerable streams fall into the lake, the least obstacle to a discharge must raise the level.

The name of Abruzzo, which is now given to the two most northerly provinces of the kingdom, was applied by the Goths, Lombards and Normans solely to a small domain called the county of Apruzzo, or Aprutinus : Under the Swabian government it was extended over the whole

country that now goes by that appellation. The size of the river Pescara, the ancient Aternus, induced the kings to make it a boundary, and to divide the province into two parts according as they lay with respect to the river: The government of each was entrusted to a justiciary, and the captains of the cities; but their tribunals were not rendered permanent till the accession of the house of Arragon, when they were fixed at Aquila and Chieti. In the last century it was found expedient to subdivide the province of Aquila into two jurisdictions, as the vicinity to the papal frontier had rendered it a den of thieves and banditti, which required the number of magistrates to be increased, that the insolence of the profligate might be more easily and expeditiously suppressed. A third tribunal was accordingly established at Teramo, the chief of which, as well as those of the other provincial tribunals throughout the realm, is styled president, and is usually an officer of the rank of brigadier, or major general.

As these provinces are the most northern, they are also the coldest in the kingdom, being exceedingly mountainous. The chain of the Apennines, without any interruption, but that of some narrow vallies formed by the waters of the numerous rivers that rush down from the heights, continues in a slight declivity to the edge of the Adriatic sea. But the rigour of the climate is not so great as to prevent the country from producing in abundance every thing requisite for the support of life. Vegetables, fruits, animals,

animals, and numberless other articles of sustenance, not only furnish ample provision for the use of the natives, but also allow of exportation. There is so large a quantity of wheat reaped, that many thousands of quarters are annually shipped off. Much Turkey wheat is sent out, and the province of Teramo sells a great deal of rice little inferior in goodness to that of Lombardy. Oil is a plentiful commodity, and wines are made for exportation on many parts of the coast; but wool has always been, and still is their staple commodity: The flocks, after passing the whole summer in the fine pastures of the mountains, are driven for the winter into the warm plains of Puglia, and a few spots near their own coast, where the snow does not lie; there are no manufactures of woollens in the province, except two small ones of coarse cloth, and the greatest part of the wool is sent out unwrought. No silk is made here, though mulberry trees would grow well in the low grounds.

Formerly the territory of Aquila furnished Italy almost exclusively with saffron, but since the culture of that plant has been so much followed in Lombardy, it has fallen to nothing in Abruzzo. In the maritime tracts of country the cultivation of liquorice has been increased of late years, but foreigners export the roots in their natural state: In the province of Teramo, there is a manufacture of pottery-ware, for which there is a great demand in Germany, by the way of Trieste, as it is remarkably hard and fine,
but

but even this is going to decay, by being abandoned entirely to the ignorance of common workmen. It is not to be expected that any improvements will be made in arts and manufactures, where the encouragement and attention of superiors is wanting, and no pains taken to render the commodity more marketable, or to open better channels of sale for it. The only advantages these provinces enjoy are the gift of benevolent nature, but she has still greater presents in store for them, and waits only for the helping hand of government to produce them. This whole coast, one hundred miles in length, is utterly destitute of sea-ports, and the only spots where the produce can be embarked are dangerous inconvenient roads, at the mouths of rivers, and along a lee shore: The difficulty of procuring shipping, and of loading the goods, frequently causes great quantities of them to rot on hand, which damps industry, and prevents all improvements in agriculture. The husbandman is a poor dispirited wretch, and wretchedness produces emigration: The uneven surface of the country occasions it to be inhabited by retail, if I may use the expression, rather than in large masses, for there is not a city that contains ten thousand people, and the most of them would find it difficult to muster three thousand. Villages, castles and feudatory estates are to be met with in abundance, but the numbers of their inhabitants are to be reckoned by hundreds, not thousands; in a word, the political and social system of the province shews no signs
of

of the vigour which nature so remarkably displays here in all her operations.

The antiquary and the naturalist may travel here with exquisite pleasure and profit; the former will find treasures of inscriptions, and inedited monuments appertaining to the warlike nations, that once covered the face of the country: The natural philosopher will have a noble field for observation in the stupendous mountains that rise on all sides. Monte-corno and Majella are among the most interesting; the first is like an aged monument of nature, bald, and horribly broken on every aspect; from various appearances, it is evident that its bowels contain many valuable veins of metallic ore, but the great difficulty of access renders the search of them almost impracticable. Majella has other merits, and of a gayer kind:—Nature has clothed its declivities and elevated fields with an infinite variety of her most precious plants; vulnerary herbs grow there in as great perfection as on the Alps of Switzerland, and are applied by the natives to wounds with equal success.

The character of the inhabitants varies a little among themselves, according to situation and climate, but essentially from the disposition of the natives of the more southern provinces. This proceeds from a difference of origin, for the Lombards, who were barbarians, but not cruel; poor, but hospitable; endowed with plain honest sense, though possessed of little accuteness or subtlety, remained peaceable proprietors of these mountainous regions,

gions, till the Normans, who were accustomed to a similar climate, came, and dispossessed them. The Greeks, who retained almost every other part of the kingdom under their dominion, never had any sway here. For this reason the Abruzzesi still bear a great resemblance to their northern progenitors or masters: To this day, one may trace in them the same goodness of heart, but great indolence and repugnance to lively exertions, a fault that proceeds rather from a want of active virtue, than a disposition to wickedness. Hence it comes that in these provinces, where the proximity of the frontier almost insures impunity, fewer atrocious and inhuman deeds are heard of, than in other parts of the realm. Remnants of ancient northern customs existed here so late as the beginning of this century, and, among the mountaineers, very evident traces of the Frank and Teutonic languages may be discovered.

The snow and excessive coldness of the wind defeated all our projects of penetrating farther into Abruzzo, and therefore, with great reluctance, we set out for the softer climate of Rome; the utmost we were able to compass was to take a different route from that we had followed in coming to Avezzano.

The lake was over-hung with black and fleeting mists, which sometimes left space enough open for us to discern the towering summits of the mountains on the south side of the water. Passing by the mouth of the Emissary, we came
to

to Luco, a small place, which probably took its name from some consecrated grove. A church has been built upon the ruins of a temple. Not far from it a fine stream falls into the lake near Trafacco, a hamlet full of mutilated inscriptions, and other fragments of antiquity. We here took leave of the lake, and indeed of all prospect whatever, being soon enveloped in impenetrable fogs. In this state of darkness, we travelled over the mountain, and rode past the little city of Sora, almost without discerning an object in it. Sora belongs to the house of Buoncompagno, sovereign princes of Pionbino, descended from the nephew of Gregory the Thirteenth. About three miles below this town, the torrent Fibreno divides itself into two branches, which meeting again, soon after form a small oblong island. On the banks of the river, opposite this spot, stood the mansion where Cicero was born. His father, in conformity with the luxury of the age, built a handsome villa in lieu of the modest abode, with which his ancestors had been contented in days of Samnite simplicity; but this Arpinate, this favourite residence of the prince of orators, owed its merits to nature, not to the embellishments of fashionable art: Here were no rich Mosaic pavements, or gilded vaults; no forced water-works, terraces, or ponds; no alleys of tortured trees, nor clusters of statues to attract the eye, and taint the mind with false ideas of beauty. All these meretricious ornaments became, as Cicero observes, contemptible to the

eyes that had once seen this place, where the hand of nature had happily arranged the woods and waterfalls; if art was called in, it was only in the character of an humble handmaid, to obey, not to dictate. The rapid streams of the Fibrenus rolled down the vale in numberless wild cascades, and diffused around a freshness that mitigated the power of the autumnal heats, and preserved a salutary circulation of air: The island was a perfect rural retreat fit for study and meditation, remote from every noise but the murmurs of the water, and the melody of the birds; protected from the burning rays of the sun and the eye of intruders by thick shades of venerable groves. In one of Cicero's dialogues Atticus is made to exclaim, "what can be more
 " delightful than this island, which, like the prow of a
 " ship, divides the Fibrenus into two branches: These
 " flow swiftly down its sides, and soon uniting again,
 " leave just space enough for a wrestling ground; they
 " then hasten to mingle with the Liris, and render it still
 " cooler by the mixture of their icy waters."

We measured every foot of this truly classical spot, which even in its present neglected state retains some traces of its ancient beauty, though the chilness of its waters, which recommended the Fibreno so strongly to Cicero, was a quality we were little charmed with in the midst of fleet and snow. A society of monks, who are generally good judges of situation, have fixed their abode upon the ruins of the villa; but I could discover no inscription relative to
 its

its old master, though numberless fragments of ancient buildings have been employed in the construction of the church. A mile down the river we came to Isola, a large burgh placed in an island of the Liris below its junction with the Fibreno; the beauty of this situation surpasses all power of description, for at the point of intersection the moss-grown towers of a romantic castle rise on the brow of a perpendicular rock through a grove of trees, and on each side the river falls in a most sublime manner: But the forms of these cascades differ in their character; one is abrupt, and the torrent darts with infinite impetuosity in a grand mass roaring and foaming as it pours along, while the other is composed of a long inclined plain, upon which the waters glide swiftly, but smoothly down. The weather was so cold, that it was impossible to give more than a cursory glance to these objects: As soon as our horses were refreshed, we crossed the hills opposite to Arpino, now a poor place, but once a colony that gave its name to the district, and boasted of having produced two of the most conspicuous characters of Rome, Marius and Cicero. We soon after re-entered the ecclesiastical dominions, and in two days reached Rome.

T H E E N D.

DIRECTIONS for placing the PLATES in Vol. II.

	PAGE
1. Court of a Country-House at Pompeii — —	103
2. Amalfi — — — —	149
3. Palermo — — — —	191
4. Montreal — — — —	219
5. La Torre Zizza — — — —	222
6. Country near Segesta — — — —	236
7. Ruins of Agrigentum — — — —	285
8. Column at Terranova — — — —	301
9. Column of Marcellus — — — —	318
10. Ruins of the Temple of Jupiter — — — —	342
11. Villa of Prince of Biscari — — — —	362
12. Castagno di cento Cavalli — — — —	375
13. Messina — — — —	415
14. Tropea — — — —	428

I N D E X

O F

Remarkable PLACES, PERSONS, and THINGS.

		Page
A.		
A BRUZZO, province, ..	- 511	
Agathocles, Tyrant, 277.	303	
Agnano, lake, - - -	44	
Agriculture - 6. 108. 217.	240	
Agrippa Marcus, Consul, - -	36	
Aguglia of Marcellus - -	318	
Alaric King of Visigoths -	463	
Alba - - -	514	
Alcamo - - -	229	
Alicata - - -	297	
Alphonfus I. of Sicily - 44. 57.	62	
Alphonfus II. of Naples - 389.	438	
Amalfi - - -	149	
Amato, river, - - -	440	
Amphitheatres - 40. 132.	489	
Anapus, river, - - -	342	
Anacapri - - -	7	
Angitola, river, - - -	438	
Anthony, Mark, Triumvir, -	502	
Andrew of Hungary - -	487	
Aqueducts - 62. 89. 337.	526	
Arethufa, fountain, - -	320	
Aristodemus, Tyrant, - -	20	
Arpinate of Cicero - -	527	
Astruni, park, - - -	43	
Averno, lake, - - -	35	
Aversa - - -	486	
Avezzano - - -	516	
Augusta - - -	347	
Augustus, Emperor, - 4. 24.	34	
Auletta - - -	483	
Avocata, convent, - -	144	
B.		
Baia, ruins, - - -	28	
Barliardus, forcerer, - -	122	
Basento, river, - - -	463	
Baths - 14. 17. 45. 32. 257.	444	
Belici, river, - - -	247	
Bifignano - - -	466	
Biveri, lake, - - -	314	
Bivona - - -	436	
C.		
Calatabellota - - -	258	
Calatafimi - - -	231	
Calatagerone - - -	306	
Capri, island, - - -	1. 190	
Capodimonte, palace, - -	65	
Capua - - -	489. 493	
Carini - - -	225	
Carlentini - - -	317	
Carfoli - - -	510	
Caserta - - -	86. 90	
Castiglione, convent, - -	507	
Castelvetrano - - -	240	
Catacombs - - -	65. 332	
Catania - - -	353	
Cava - - -	114	
		Celano

I N D E X.

	Page		Page
Celano, lake, - -	517	Galli, islands, - -	162
Charles I. of Naples - -	78	Game - - 5. 140. 351.	373
Charles II. of Naples - -	501	Garigliana, river, - -	497
Charles III. of Naples - -	110	George of Antioch, Admiral,	407
Charybdis - -	387	Gianetta, river, - -	333
Cicero, M. Tullius, - -	502	Gioia Flavius - -	154
Claudius, Emperor, - -	519, 520	Girgenti - -	272
Colonna, Donna Julia, - -	508	Giudicello, river, - -	362
Conradine of Swabia - -	63. 512	Gorgias of Lentini - -	313
Cosenza - -	456	Gregory VII. Pope, - -	120
Crati, river, - -	465	Grottoes - - 22. 45.	57
Cuma, ruins, - -	20		
		H.	
D.		Hannibal - -	491
Dionysius, Tyrant, - -	178	Henry VI. Emperor, - -	126
Ducetius King of Siculi - -	276	Henry, son to Frederic II.	443
		Herculaneum, ruins, - -	93
E.		Hermitages - - 3.	15
Ear of Dionysius - -	339	Hiero I. of Syracuse - -	356
Elmo, St. castle, - -	58	Hiero II. of Syracuse - -	18
Elyfian Fields - -	26	Horfes, breed of, - -	90
Epomeo, mountain, - -	14		
Eruptions - - 13.	365. 378	I. J.	
Etna, mountain, - -	308. 364	James King of Sicily - -	501
Euphemia, St. - -	444	Jews - -	85
		Inquisition - -	392
F.		Inscriptions - - 99. 121.	479. 507
Fabius Maximus, Dictator, - -	495	Joachim, Abbot, - -	454
Faro of Messina - -	415	Joan I. of Naples - -	488
Favorotta - -	226	Joan II. of Naples - -	462
Fibreno, river, - -	527	Ischia, island, - -	12
Fisheries - - 160. 217. 267.	422	Ischia, Borgo d', - -	12
Fiumefalfo, river, - -	299	Ifola - -	529
Fondi - -	508		
Foria - -	17	L.	
Formianum of Cicero - -	502	Ladislaus King of Naples - -	501
Francis of Paula, St. - -	416. 457	Lagonero - -	476
Frederic II. Emperor - -	78. 129	Lakes, of Patria 19. Fufaro 23. Lu-	
		crine 34. Averno 34. Biveri 314.	
G.		Fondi 508. Celano 517.	
Gaeta - -	498	Landolph of Capua - -	493
		Language	

I N D E X.

	Page
Language of Sicily - -	262
La Pertosa cavern - -	481
Lao, river, - - -	475
Lauria - - -	475
Lentini - - -	313
Letter of the V. M. - -	390
Lewis III. King of Naples - -	462
Lewis XI. King of France - -	458
Linternum, ruins, - -	19
Lotharius, Emperor, - -	157
Lottery - - -	67
Lucilius, Poet, - -	497
Luna family - - -	249

M.

Madiuni, river, - - -	242
Majuri - - -	146
Malta, order of, - -	153
Maniaces, General, - -	182. 398
Maremorto - - -	23
Marius, Caius, Consul, - -	25. 498
Memfrici - - -	248
Messina - - -	385
Minturnæ, ruins, - -	497
Mola di Gaeta - - -	499
Monarchia, tribunal, - -	396
Montalegre - - -	269
Monteleone - - -	433
Montenovo, volcano, - -	33
Montepelegrino, mountain, - -	208
Monte S. Calogero - -	257
Montreale - - -	219
Murano - - -	470
Musæum of Portici - -	95
----- Jesuits - -	201
----- Biscari - -	353
----- Benedictines - -	359

N.

Naples - - -	79
Naro, river, - - -	293
Neapolitans - - -	79

	Page
Nicastro - - -	442
Nerida, Island, - -	46
Nocera - - -	107

P.

Padre, Rocco, - - -	72
Padula - - -	477
Palace of Portici - -	97
----- Naples - -	65
----- Caferta - -	87
----- Palermo - -	201
Palagonia, villa, - -	214
Palagonia - - -	309
Palermo - - -	191
Palma - - -	294
Pandects of Justinian - -	157
Paralia - - -	431
Paula - - -	457
Perollo family - - -	249
Pesto, ruins, - - -	131
Piedigrotta, church - -	54
Pisina, pond, - - -	345
Pizzo - - -	438
Platani, river, - - -	266
Polla - - -	478
Pompeii, ruins - - -	98
Pompeius, Sextus, - -	24. 328
Pontanus, Jovius, - -	50
Posilipo - - -	47
Procida, island, - - -	9
Procida, John of, - -	11. 123. 185
Productions - 27. 131. 255. 256. 294.	305. 401
Puzzuoli - - -	39

R.

Ranulph of Averfa - -	486
Revolt of Palermo - -	201
----- Messina - -	400
Ribera - - -	260
Robert Duke of Normandy - -	128
Roger,	

I N D E X.

	Page
Roger Earl of Sicily -	308. 327. 360.
	394. 415. 436
Roger King of Sicily -	59
Rogliano -	454
Romulus, Augustulus, Emperor, -	60
Rosalia, St. -	209

S.

Sala -	478
Salerno -	118
Salto, river, -	512
Sannazar, James, -	49
Samo, river, -	106
Savuto, river, -	452
Scafata -	106
Schifo -	378
School of Salerno -	127
Sciacca -	248
Scipio's villa -	19
Scilla -	416
Scurcola -	512
Segeſta, ruins, -	238
Seggi of Naples -	70
Selinus, ruins, -	243
Sepulchres 20. 22. 26. 49. 57. 102. 119,	
120. 199. 220. 279. 285. 389. 507	
Sessa -	496
Sico, Prince of Salerno -	151
Siculiana -	269
Silari, river, -	139. 484
Sirens -	163
Solfatara, volcano, -	42
Solus, ruins, -	217
Sora -	527
Stromboli, volcano, -	421. 426
Sibylla of Conversano -	128
Sibylla II. of Sicily -	260
Syracuse -	320

T.

	Page
Tagliacozzo -	511
Tancred, King of Sicily -	126
Taormina -	380
Temples 35. 40. 99. 133. 233. 243. 282,	
283. 286. 287. 289	
301. 328. 342. 436	
Terranova -	301
Theatres 66. 89. 99. 337. 233. 380	
Thero of Agrigentum -	275
Timoleon of Corinth -	415
Tiberius, villa of, -	3
Torrione del Carmine -	60
Toledo, Pedro de, Viceroy, -	34. 54
Trade -	401
Tropea -	428

V.

Valguarnera, villa, -	217
Velino, mountain, -	511
Vibius of Capua -	492
Vicaria, tribunal, -	67
Victoria, convent, -	513
Vida, Jerome, -	51
Vietri -	117
Villa Sciarra -	362
Virgil -	47
Vitellius, Lucius, -	515
Voltorno, river, -	493

U.

Urban VI. Pope -	110
Ustica, island, -	190

W.

William Q. King of Sicily -	220
-----------------------------	-----

X.

Xenodocus of Agrigentum -	277
---------------------------	-----

Z.

Zizza, palace, -	222
------------------	-----

I N D E X

O F

Remarkable PLACES, PERSONS, and THINGS.

A.			Battle of Benevento		
				Page	
A BELLA Ruins	-	Page 105	— of Bitonto	-	397
Acerra	-	422	— of Cannæ	-	169
Agri River	-	278	— of Sinno	-	280
Agriculture	-	167. 289	Baux Family	-	104
Albanefe	-	348	Bells	-	98
Alphonfus I. King of Sicily	141.	231	Benevento	-	410
Amsanctus	-	128	Bisceglia	-	185
Andria	-	399	Bitonto	-	397
Aprocina	-	148	Blood of St. Januarius	-	93
Aquino Family	-	327	— St. Pantaleon	-	187
Ariano	-	131	Bohemund of Antioch	201.	401
Arpi Ruins	-	148	Bona Queen of Poland	194. 202.	302
Architas of Tarentum	-	259	Bova	-	348
Avellino	-	108	Bovino	-	136
Augustus	-	43. 97. 272. 297	Brindisi	-	383
B.			C.		
Bandusia Fountain	-	408	Calabrian Customs	-	283
Banks	-	79	— Horses	-	313
Bari	-	191	— Opinions	-	284
Barletta	-	175	— Cattle	-	289
Basiento River	-	272	Calypso's Isle	-	325
					Cannæ

I N D E X.

Cannæ Ruins	-	Page 168
Canosa	-	400
Cape Colonne	-	321
Capece Family	-	184
Caraffa Family	-	108
Caraccioli Family	-	339
Cariati	-	307
Castelamare di Stabia	-	84
Casalnuovo	-	220
Cassiodorus, Minister to Theodoric	-	
King of the Goths	-	334
Castel del Monte	-	398
Cassano	-	291
Catanzaro	-	331
Caulon Ruins	-	339
Caudine Forks	-	421
Charles I. King of Naples	148. 150.	
	168. 193	
—— II. King of Naples	159. 193	
	369	
Charms against Fire-Arms	-	324
Character of Neapolitans	61, 62	
Cotton Trade	-	369
—— Culture	-	219
Cotrone	-	313
Conrade IV. Emperor	139. 400. 405	
Corigliano	-	298
Crati River	-	ibid.
Customs of the Neapolitans	113	
Criminal Jurisprudence	-	63

D.

Dogana delle Pecore	-	140
Dogs of Calabria	-	287
Dog-Eaters	-	220
Duties on Fish	-	251
—— on Silk	-	355

†

Duties on Merchandize	-	Page 78
Duels	-	184. 209

E.

Earthquakes	-	133
Eculanum Ruins	-	126
Elba Island	-	30
Etruscan Vases	-	192
Explanations of Horace	-	335
Exports	-	79

F.

Fata Morgana	-	365
Ferdinand I. King of Naples	137. 154.	
	163. 176. 235	
Fish of Taranto	-	242
Foggia	-	138
Frederick II. Emperor	132. 148.	
	157. 160. 178. 200. 230. 399	
Frederick II. King of Sicily	319	
Fruits of Calabria	-	358
—— of Puglia	-	253
Funeral Ceremonies	-	114

G.

Gallipoli	-	368
Game	-	163. 174
Game Laws	-	286
Gerace	-	340
Giannone, Peter	-	156
Giovenazzo	-	188
Gnatia Ruins	-	206
Gonsalvo de Cordova	-	179, 266
Gypsies	-	305

H.

Hannibal	165. 170. 174. 264. 323	
Heraclea	-	279
		Heraclius,

I N D E X.

Heraclius, Statue of, - Page 177
Hunting - - - 162

I.

Jacinthus of Bari - - 199
Imports - - - 79
Iron Mine - - - 36
Isabella Duchefs of Milan 192

L.

Lavello - - - 405
Lawria, Roger de - - 87. 319
Lautrec, Marechal de - - 91
Lewis of Anjou - - - 186
Lecce - - - 380
Locri Ruins - - - 341
Lucera - - - 156

M.

Manfred King of Sicily 105. 139.
149. 162. 178. 268. 415
Manfredonia - - - 147
Manna - - - 194. 287
Manduria Ruins - - - 222
Manufactures - - - 84
Marfano Family - - - 301
Maffa - - - 90
Melo of Bari - - - 172. 198
Melfi - - - 409
Milo of Crotona - - - 294
Montfort Family - - - 102
Monopoli - - - 204
Montevergine - - - 119
Montefusco - - - 125
Mufic - - - 378. 382

N.

Nardo - - - Page 375
Nola - - - 97

O.

Ofanto River - - 175. 401
Oil - - - 204. 370. 372
Olives - - - 371. 373
Oria - - - 218

P.

Pipino of Minervino - - 201
Pignatelli Family - - 165
Piombino - - - 41
Poggio Reale - - - 95
Ponza Islands - - - 46
Porto Ferraio - - - 30
Porto Longone - - - 42
Possessions by Evil Spirits - - 344
Purple - - - 239
Puolo Ruins - - - 88
Pyrrhus of Epire - - - 262. 280
Pythagoras - - - 217. 316

R.

Raymond Orfino - - 102. 260
Ranulph of Avellino - - 108
Reggio - - - 356
Rene of Anjou - - - 106
Roger King of Sicily - - 137. 193
Robert Duke of Puglia - - 198
Roger Earl of Sicily - - 199
Rossano - - - 301
Roseto - - - 281

Saracens.

I N D E X.

S.		T.	
Saracens	Page 158	Taranto	Page 180
Salapia Ruins	173	Tarantula	395
St. Thomas of Aquino	188. 327	Tavoliere	142
St. Charles Borromeo	216	Tancred King of Sicily	382
St. Paulinus	98	Temple of Juno Lacynia	321
St. Nilus	302	Thurium	294
St. William of Vercelli	121	Trani	180
St. Angelo di Gargano	153	Troja	137
Scanderbeg	119. 155	V.	
Sebeto River	95	Venereal Disease, Introduction of	93
Sebastian King of Portugal	328	Venosa	406
Sheep	141. 228	Ventotiene Island	47
Sipontum Ruins	149	Vesuvius, Mount,	46. 50
Silk	357	Volture Monte	403
Sorrento	86	W.	
Spinelli Family	307	Walnut Tree of the Witches	417
Squillacce	333	William I. King of Sicily	200
Stilo	338	Z.	
Stabia Ruins	82	Zaleucus of Locri	342
Strongoli	312	**	
Summons, Mode of,	335		
Sybaris	291		

Pythium .P. 131.

Encyclopedia .P. 301.

